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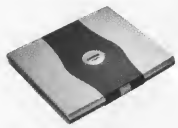
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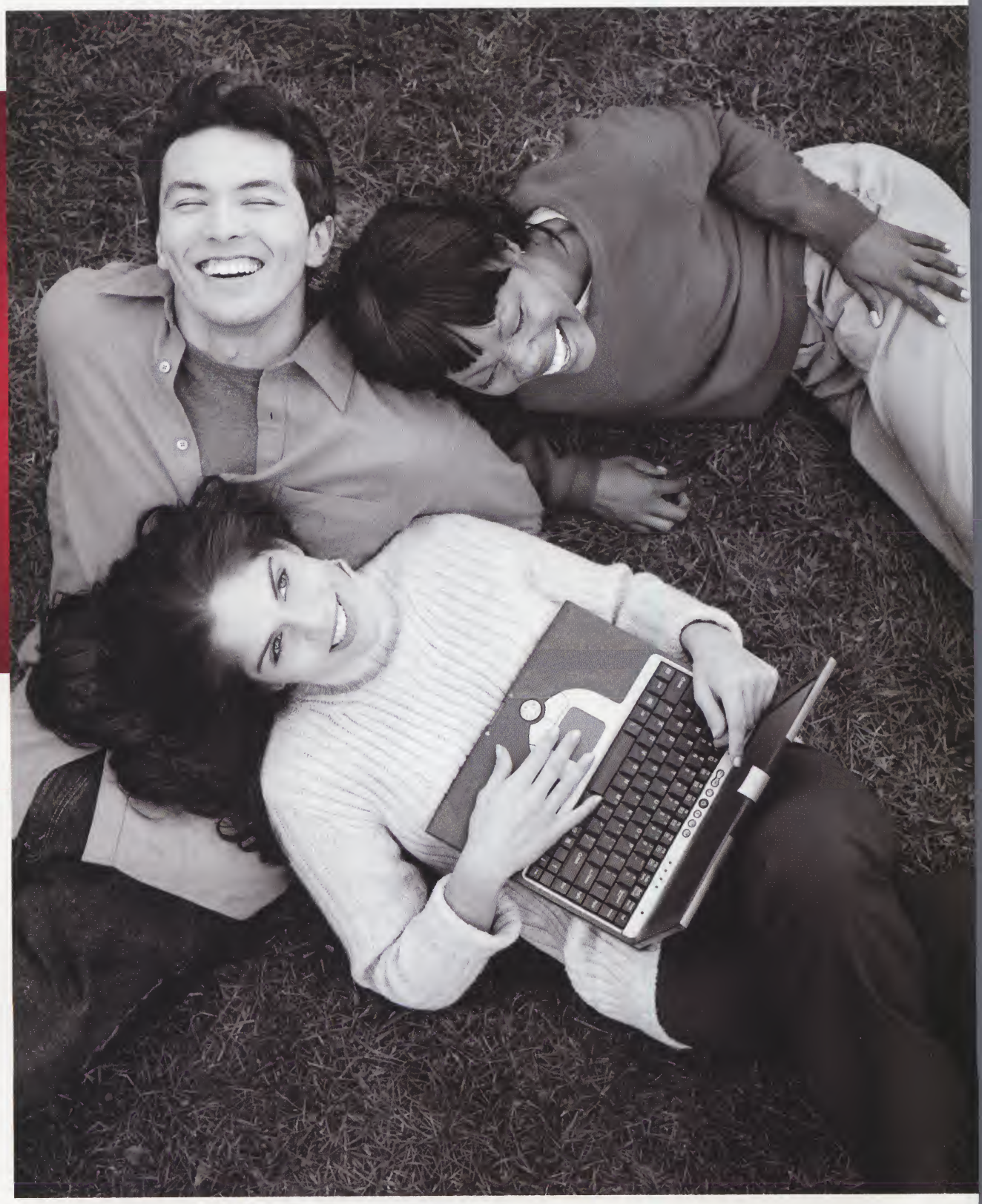
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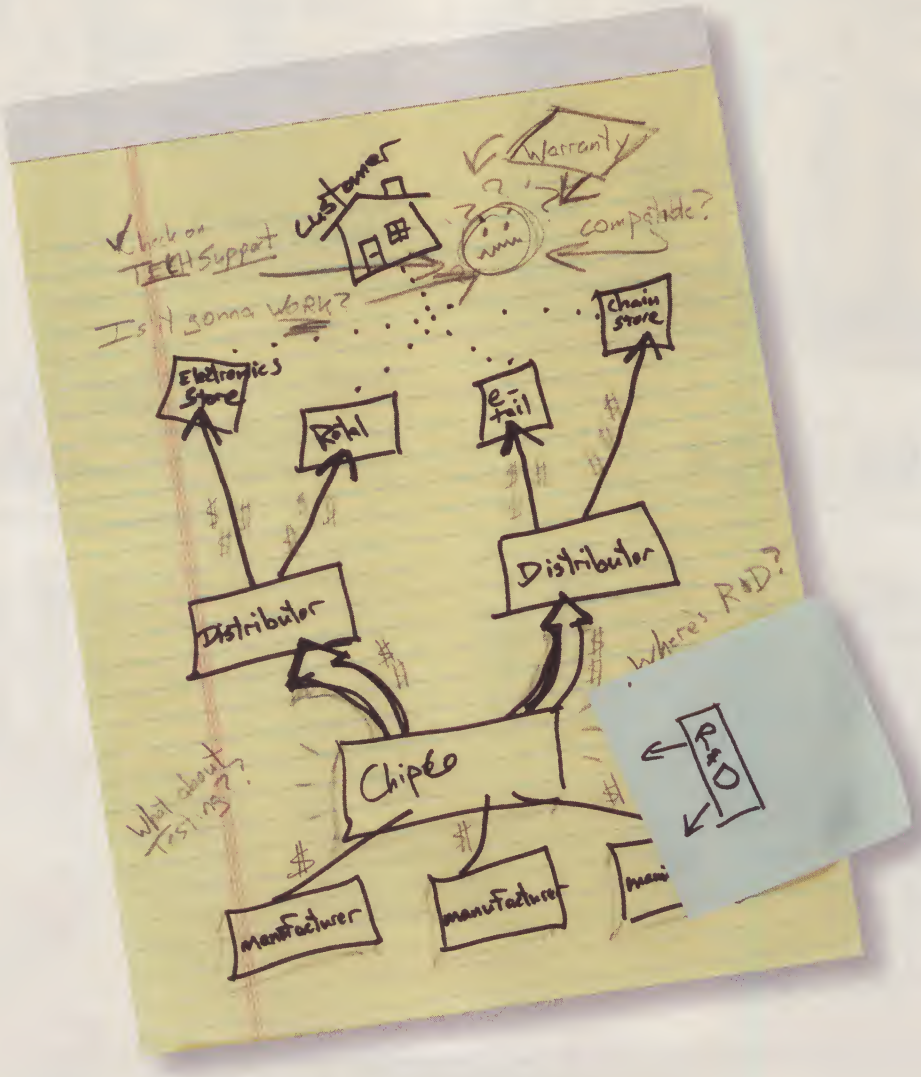
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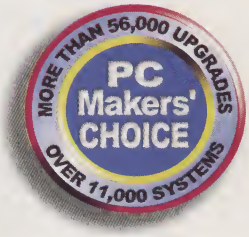
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$1539 #3111
800MHz **$ 1559** #3112 — 933MHz **$ 1619** #3114
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$1129 #3121
800MHz **$ 1149** #3122 — 933MHz **$ 1209** #3124
866MHz **$ 1169** #3123 — 1GHz **$ 1379** #3125

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$1169 #3081
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866MHz **$ 1209** #3083 — 1GHz **$ 1419** #3085

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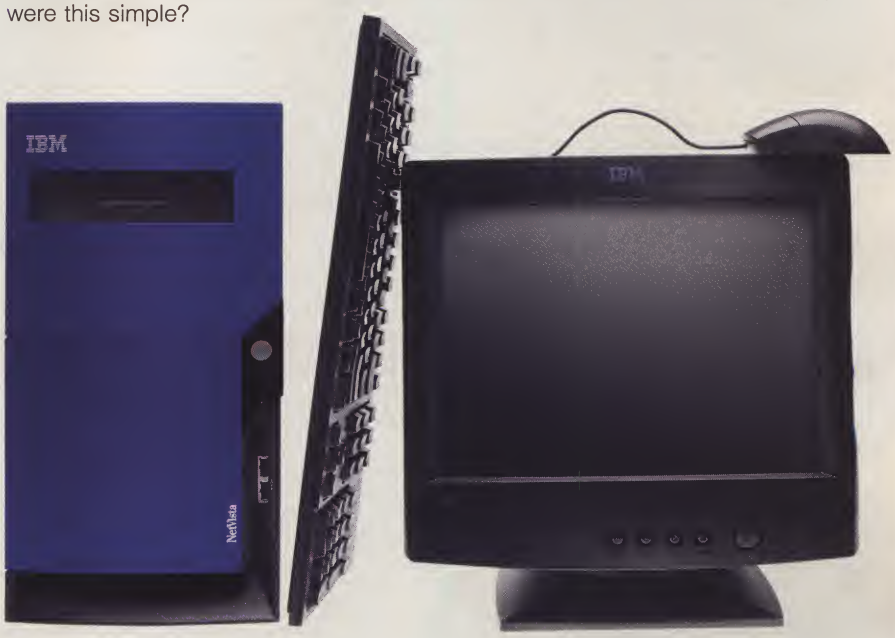
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contents

MARCH 2001 • Volume 21 • Number 3 • Issue 252

See page 140



108
120
70
130

features

Towers of Power 108

POWER SYSTEMS *by Bill O'Brien*

As processor speeds zoom past 1GHz, Intel and chief rival AMD face off with new chip architectures promising enhanced multimedia support. Is the added power worth the added expense? We look to five new, blazingly fast systems for the answer.



• Compaq Presario 7000T • Gateway Performance 1500XL • HP Pavilion 9720A • IBM NetVista A60i • micronpc.com Millennia Max XP

Your Life in Your Hands 120

HANDHELD PCS

by Rick Broida, Brad Dosland, Phil Lacefield Jr., John Morris, and Jeff Sauer

Handheld PCs have evolved drastically over the past year, morphing from niche accessories for business users into indispensable consumer companions. We look at the fine points of five new PDAs and Pocket PCs.



• Casio Cassiopeia EM-500 • Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC • Handspring Visor Platinum • Handspring Visor Prism • Palm VIIx

Take-Along Tunes 130

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PORTABLE DIGITAL-MUSIC PLAYERS

by Don Labriola

Nothing elicits envy today like a portable digital-music player. And with sizes shrinking and feature sets bursting with diversity, the latest players are a better buy than ever, too. Here's how to shop for one that pleases both your ears and your wallet.

Many Happy Returns 136

TAX-PREPARATION SOFTWARE *by Xavier W. Niz*

Let your PC be your tax advisor! These three tax packages deliver top-notch help and let you file with confidence. Also, see our advice on doing your prep work and filing online.

• Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe From H&R Block • Quicken TurboTax Deluxe • TaxAct 2000 Deluxe

Something for Nothing 140

SURFING FOR FREE STUFF *by Rich Castagna*

Want free stuff? Find it here! Check out these Web sites for free products and services you can really use, from MP3 files to software to long-distance calls.

Not off the Presses 146

E-BOOKS *by Rick Broida*

Everyone's buzzing about e-books. Find out what all the fuss is about: what they are, where to get them, how to read them, and what Stephen King has to do with all this.

news

Net Now 16

Voting via the Net will become reality only when issues surrounding security, privacy, and fraud are settled. Plus, a new site from consumer-rating giant J.D. Power delivers advice on shopping for cars, online brokers, telecommunications, and more.

Hot Gear



- Sony Cyber-shot DSC-P1
- Intel Pocket Concert Audio Player
- Kyocera QCP 6035 Smartphone 36



- Akoo.com Kima
- Kingston IdentiGuard
- Harman JBL Sonnet 37

opinions

John Blackford 50

John Dvorak 54

Jim O'Brien 56

Michael Slater 57

best buys

Let our editors help you select the greatest desktop computers, PC peripherals, mobile gear, software, and games. 44

ZDNet BEST BUY

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IBM THINKPAD NOTEBOOKS

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10GB[8] HDD

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Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition

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IBM NetVista X40



IBM NETVISTA DESKTOPS

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IBM NetVista X40

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Integrated 8MB graphics

10/100 Ethernet

Windows 2000 Professional

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contents...continued

web buyer

Site Reviews 153
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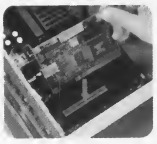
NETWORKABLE
Off Site, on LAN 186
Keeping your telecommuting workers connected is crucial to their productivity—and yours. Here's help.

News 179
Execs learn from failed e-businesses, companies introduce m-commerce to the mobile workforce, and B2B trading hubs gain favor among large and midsize firms.

e-Services and Tools 183
Financial Aides: Benefit from the wealth of small-business finance advice you can find online. And it all comes at a pleasing price: free!

Building Your Business 184
Make Cookies More Appetizing: Cookies are the best and easiest way to add advanced features to your site. Our advice will help you get your visitors to bite.

help & how to



TUNE-UP
You Can Take It With You 208
Ditching your years-old system for a new PC is fun, but transferring your data, software, and settings can be a nightmare. We show you a quick and easy way to make the move.

The Hard Edge *by Alice Hill & Bill O'Brien* 194
Alice and Bill take on the Pentium 4's bogus 400MHz bus. Plus, a new use for spam, and a test of your Internet knowledge.

Alfred Poor's Computer Cures 212
Alfred resolves a tricky print-file problem and tells you how to meter the speed of your broadband connection.

Buying Advisor 218
Taking the Rugged Route: Our Advisor cruises the Web in search of an affordable notebook sturdy enough to ride along with a long-haul trucker.

reference

Product Index 223
Check here for an index of products sold by *Computer Shopper* advertisers, sorted by category.

Spotlight 189
Ad Index 236
Showcase 238

from the editor

Janice Chen 13

from the readers

Feedback Forum 14

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reviews

DESKTOPS

HP Pavilion 2755C 70
Sony VAIO PCV-RX280DS 71
Tangent Medallion Pro 72

HARDWARE

Intel Pocket PC Camera 74
Kodak EZ200 74
Hercules Game Theater XP 77
Matrox Marvel G450 eTV 77
Ricoh MediaMaster MP9120A Combo Drive 78
Samsung ML-4600 78

MOBILE

Acer TravelMate 351TEV 82
InnoGear MiniJam 84
Motorola Timeport P8767 84
NEC Versa SXi 88
Sceptre Soundx 69502 90
Tiny Performance Notebook 800 92

SOFTWARE

Netscape 6 100
Macromedia Dreamweaver 4 100
Documents To Go Professional Edition 102
PCsync 102

WEB SERVICES

HomeAdvisor.com 104
PhoneFree 104

GAMES

• No One Lives Forever • Sacrifice • Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2
• You Don't Know Jack 5th Dementia 106

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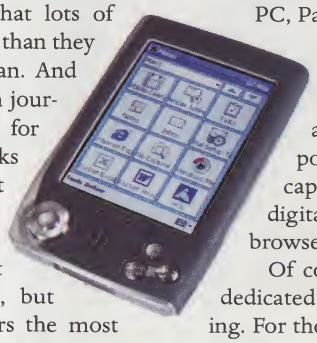


What Do You Drive?

I get this question all the time: "Why buy a gigahertz-plus Pentium 4 or Athlon when all you really need is a 400MHz Celeron?" My answer: "Why buy a Ferrari Testarossa when all you really need is a Honda Accord?"

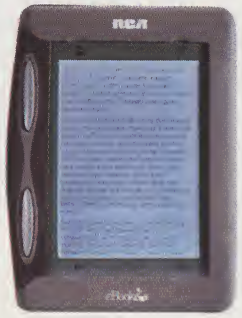


Sure, the Celeron's fast enough for Word, Excel, and Net surfing—and you won't see much benefit from a Pentium 4 without specialized software. But that Honda will handle any 65-mph highway well enough, so unless you're headed for the Autobahn, the Ferrari's 12-cylinder engine is probably overkill, too.



The bottom line is that lots of people buy faster systems than they need just because they can. And no matter how often tech journalists say "fast enough for business apps," some folks will still want the latest and greatest.

So for these people, the big question is not why buy a fast system, but which fast system delivers the most horsepower—an Athlon or a Pentium 4? To answer that, we put two 1.2GHz Athlons and three 1.5GHz Pentium 4s to the test. Turn to our feature story "Towers of Power" on p. 108 to find out how well these five power-packed PCs performed.



Once you plunk down the cash for that Testarossa, all you have to do to upgrade is slide your bottom out of the Accord and into those sleek Italian-leather seats. Unfortunately, moving on up isn't so easy when you buy a new, turbocharged PC. After years of installing applications, tweaking user settings, and adding hardware to your older system, you can't just slide your hard drive into the sleek new chassis and go.

Unless you're ready to make a clean break and start from scratch, you'll need to move your old software, settings, and data to the new system. Happily, we've taken the guesswork out of the process for you in this month's Tune-Up feature, "You Can Take It With You" (p. 208). Our own Alfred Poor (of "Computer Cures" fame) steps you through a simple way to make the move, and points out some great online resources and free downloads that will make the trip easier.

Once your system is humming along, it won't be long before you start itching for new accessories to add flash and function. Don't miss our roundup of the latest Pocket PC, Palm, and Visor handhelds (p. 120). Some are better equipped than others, but any of the five we tested would make an indispensable companion for your tower of power. They add not only PIM capabilities, but also anything from digital-audio players to wireless Web browsers to electronic-book readers.

Of course the purist in you may want dedicated devices for grooving and reading. For those folks, we've put together two terrific feature stories: "Take-Along Tunes" (p. 130) and "Not off the Presses" (p. 146). The first is our Shopper's Guide to portable digital-music players, the second a primer on e-books. Both will get you up to speed on these entertaining devices and help you pick a product that works for you.

Finally, for folks with race-car tastes but used-car budgets—or those who just like getting "Something for Nothing"—our story on p. 140 examines 44 Web sites that offer free products and services you can really use.

(Oh, and by the way, what kind of car do I drive? You guessed it: a Honda Accord.)

Editor in Chief
janice_chen@zdnet.com

FEEDBACK FORUM

THE MISSING LINKSYS

I was sorely disappointed I didn't see any mention of the great home networking solution from Linksys in David English's "Family Connections" feature (January Shopper's Guide to Home Networking, p. 152). The Linksys BEFSR41 is an inexpensive, nifty little cable router that connects to the home side of your cable modem. The PCs are then connected to the Linksys box via inexpensive network cards. Setup was incredibly simple; the only call we made was to our cable provider, to have it use the cable router's Media Access Control address instead of the network card in my PC. We now have a 100Mbps connection between our PCs, and we all get fast Net access. Any of the PCs can be on, and we don't need a dedicated PC just to surf.

ROBERT PATTERSON

< COMING NEXT MONTH >

Desktops Under $1,000

Not all budget systems come with compromises. These sub-$1,000 desktops feature processors up to 800MHz and 128MB of memory. That's a lot of byte for a kilobuck.

Suitable for Framing

Show off your digital images to their best advantage with the latest photo inkjet printers. Paired with a megapixel camera, they can serve as your personal digital darkroom. To complete the picture, check out our roundup of the latest home photo-editing software.

Where the Price Is Right

Looking for a super price on a new sound card or a great deal on a huge hard drive? Take our tour of the best online shopping portals for high-tech products.



CHECKUP NEEDS A TUNE-UP

Alice Hill did such a good job with "Log On for a Tune-Up" (January, p. 166), I immediately went to PC Pitstop for a checkup. I discovered my Internet security was low (hers was, too), and the site told me how to fix it. When I "fixed" it, however, it couldn't run the tests again because my security was too high—it needed to run Java and ActiveX for the tests. Sounds like you're damned if you do and damned if you don't.

JOHN T. ARTHUR

DELIGHTFUL, IF NOT DIGITAL, SPEAKERS

In your feature "Get in the Game" (December, p. 130), you state the Klipsch PM2-400 speakers are digital. I visited the Klipsch Web site, and it says nothing about the speakers being digital. I stopped in a computer store, and the clerk said they're analog. Is this true? It really doesn't matter to me because when I heard them, I almost soiled myself.

CHRIS MOZGAWA

Although they do sound awesome, they are analog, not digital, speakers. We apologize for the error. —Ed.

OLD VINYL, NEW SOUNDS

Many thanks to copy chief John Burek for the "Modernize Your Music Collection" story (December, p. 252). I've been looking for a way to make my vinyls digital for more than two years. I have some going back to the '40s. Lucky I renewed my subscription to *Shopper*. The new format is a quantum-leap improvement. Hope to see many more articles on the latest craze of burning discs—it's the only reason I can think of to upgrade.

JUDY DISKIN

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, we incorrectly reported the memory type of the 3dfx Voodoo5 5500 AGP graphics card in the January "Shoppers' Choice Awards" (p. 133). The card has 64MB of SDRAM.

Also, in "Log On for a Tune-Up" (January, p.166) the URL for MSN's Bandwidth Speed Test has changed. The new URL is ***msn.zdnet.com/partners/msn/bandwidth/speedtest50.htm.***

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Getting Out the E-Vote



PHOTO BY CORBIS

Had it with chads

Imagine a future in which chad-free, instantly tabulated, easily accessible Internet voting is as common as unkept campaign promises. In fact, it's already happened: Last year, **Election.com** helped Arizona's state Democratic party conduct the United States' first legally binding public election in which votes were cast over the Internet.

Officials reported a 600 percent increase in voter turnout in the Arizona Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, and there wasn't a hanging chad in sight. Nonetheless, voter concerns over security, privacy, and fraud could delay acceptance of Net voting.

For instance, a recent experiment in three California counties prompted the California Internet Voting Task Force to worry that a virus could invade a user's computer and place automated votes without the user's knowledge. Others fear that votes being sent across the Internet could be intercepted and manipulated. Access to the Internet is another issue. Many people, particularly minorities, still lack Net links both at home and at work.

Reports from Arizona were generally positive, although thousands of people telephoned voter hotlines when they couldn't find the personal identification numbers needed to cast their ballots.

For these reasons, some proponents of Internet voting advocate the continued use of the polling place, where votes would be cast using Net-connected ATM-style kiosks that would be free of viruses and difficult to hack. But such equipment is expensive, and using it only at the polling place removes an important advantage of Internet voting: the ability to participate from anywhere.

Despite public concerns, the Arizona Democratic Party was quite satisfied with the experience. "It was a lot better than what happened in Florida," says Laurie Larson, assistant to the chairman of the Arizona Democratic Party. "It was very safe and secure, and we had three firewalls. There was no way anyone could break in."

—Kiersten Conner-Sax

ZAIRMAIL DELIVERS

Grandma doesn't have e-mail, and you're tired of going to the post office? Try Zairmail, a new hybrid service from **Zairmail.** Just log in to ***my.zairmail.com,*** type your letter, and designate a recipient. Zairmail prints your letter and sends it by U.S. Mail.

The company says most letters will be delivered within a couple of days. In our tests, however, delivery times varied from one to three weeks.

Nonetheless, the service is free—sort of. Zairmail bundles a page of targeted advertising with your letter, based on the interests you specify for the recipient and information pulled from a consumer database. Alternatively, you can pay around 50 cents for your letter to be delivered without advertising.

When deciding on whether to fork over the change, keep in mind that your correspondents may not appreciate the deluge of junk mail that may result from your "free" letter. Even so, we're sure that Grandma would love to hear from you. *—Adam Fisher*

Refurbishing Furby

What blinks, dances, sings, speaks a made-up language called Furbish, and "learns" as you play with it? A Furby, of course—that terminally adorable virtual pet. But if it starts quoting Howard Stern whenever you touch its fuzzy tummy, chances are someone's been working on it with a Furby Upgrade Kit.

Created by engineer Peter Gibbons in response to a "Hack Furby" contest to reprogram **Tiger Electronics'** popular toy, the kit is available for $68 from ***furbyupgrade.20m.com.*** It contains circuit boards, a data port, and other hardware to replace and extend the Furby's built-in components, thus making the little fellow's utterances and behavior fully programmable. You'll need soldering tools, a few hours of free time, and a working knowledge of 8051 assembly language. Make sure the kids have left the room before you proceed with step 1, "Skinning."

You can load the postsurgical critter with WAV sound files from your PC, making it spout George W. Bush malapropisms, for instance, or belt out Ethel Merman numbers. The possibilities are endless. You could even invent your own language for Furby to speak, which, of course, would be called "Re-Furbish."





Furby, hacked

Will we see a similar kit for Tiger's latest interactive creation, the Poo-Chi electronic dog? Maybe, but with a hard plastic shell instead of Furby's plush exterior, Poo-Chi might prove to be, um, a tough mutt to hack. *—Kevin Shay*

NET NOW

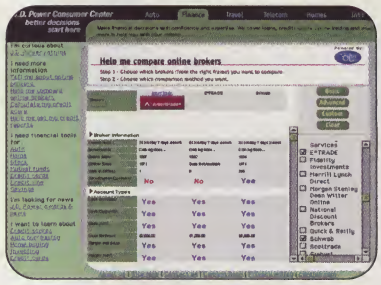
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Looking for the best car, the most affordable calling plan, the top online broker, or the most luxurious hotel? Visit the **J.D. Power Consumer Center** ***(www.jdpower.com)***, a new site that provides ratings, comparison tools, and reviewer comments on thousands of products and services, all at no charge.

The J.D. Power Consumer Center aims to be the ultimate site for accurate, unbiased information provided by and for consumers—unlike some sites that review a limited number of products, have questionable objectivity, or charge fees. "J.D. Power ratings are based on millions of consumer experiences, not random Web postings or the opinion of a few experts," says spokesman Paul Moreno.

The site is divided into five product-specific areas: Automotive, Finance, Travel, Homes, and Telecom. The Automotive section includes ratings, product profiles and reviews, a vehicle builder, and the ability to view side-by-side comparisons of up to four vehicles. The site also provides Blue Book prices, safety ratings, links to manufacturers' sites, and a quiz to help users select the ideal car.

The Finance section has information on almost two dozen online brokers and lets users compare up to three brokers based on several factors. Also useful are calculators designed to ease the decision-making process for buying a car, home, stocks, or mutual funds; starting a savings plan; setting up a credit line; or signing up for a credit card.

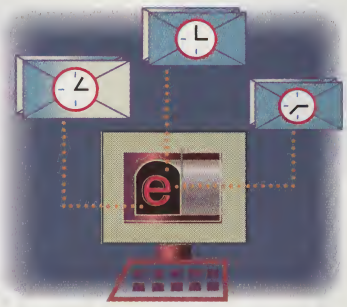


Consumer information from J.D. Power

The Telecom section provides information on and ratings of wireless companies, satellite and cable TV, local and long-distance phone service, and Internet service providers, and will compare up to three providers at a time.

The Travel and Homes sections aren't as well-developed as the others. The Travel section lists the top airports, hotels, car-rental companies, and airlines, but lacks any comparisons, ratings, or consumer comments. The Homes section rates builders in six major markets and residential utility companies in four regions of the country. But Moreno says J.D. Power plans to add ratings and other features to these sections in the near future. *—Elaine X. Grant*

The E-Shadow Knows


ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

Are your e-mail messages getting lost in the e-void? What about that sensitive message to your boss? Was it opened, and when? If you find yourself on pins and needles after sending e-mail, then check out **iTraceYou.com** ***(www.itraceyou.com)***. This new service will inform you of the exact time your e-mail messages are opened.

Registering on the iTraceYou.com site lets you access the service in two ways. Using WebTrace, the company's online mailer, you can send a message as if you were transmitting it from your own e-mail account. The other option, TraceBox, allows you to use your usual e-mail program, altering the e-mail address so that the message is routed through the iTraceYou.com servers.

Either way, the results are the same: You will receive a confirmation that the message was sent, and another when the message is opened.

In most cases, the recipient will be unaware of being traced. In our tests, none of the popular online mailers, such as Hotmail or Yahoo, showed any signs of the trace, and neither did AOL or Eudora Pro. Only Outlook had any indication that could tip off the recipient.

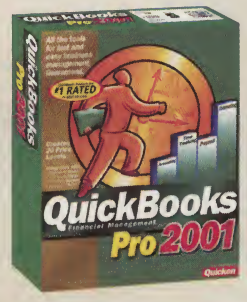
The service can be quite handy, but this kind of behind-the-scenes Web tool can make some people uneasy. For them, Watch Your Back 4.0 from **Grinning Shark Software** ***(www.grinningshark.com)*** offers easy attachment and read-receipt removal.

For an interesting demonstration of what information can be gleaned when you open an e-mail message, go to Jim Mackraz's HTML e-mail read-receipt demonstration at ***www.mackraz.com/trickybit/readreceipt.*** *—Steven Abrams*

THE CHECK IS IN THE NET

Invoices are often a hassle for small businesses, and accepting payment by credit card can be complicated and expensive—and can make online payments all-around difficult. **Intuit** and **X.com** are working to change all that.

Although they initially targeted avid auction bidders, online payment companies such as X.com and **CyberCash** are turning their focus to the small-business market. In October, X.com inked a five-year deal with Intuit that will make X.com's PayPal system the provider of online payment transactions for select Intuit products. QuickBooks 2001 and QuickBooks Pro 2001 will be Intuit's first products to incorporate PayPal technology.



Digi-cash for small business

When both parties have signed up for a PayPal account, customers who receive electronic invoices from QuickBooks users can pay their bill online through PayPal. The biller's QuickBooks software then records the confirmation of payments.

The service is free to the customer; costs for the biller range from as much as 2.2 percent of the total bill plus 30 cents per transaction (for bills over $15) to a flat fee of $2 per transaction.

Although Intuit executives cannot estimate how many QuickBooks users will take advantage of PayPal, at least one user, Steve Smith, an auto-repair-shop owner, says that the feature is a big plus. "*This is such an inexpensive* way to use the Internet to expand your business and get paid faster," he says. *—Adam Fisher*

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- 56K V.90 PCI modem[5]: $90
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intel inside
pentium® III

Compaq recommends Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional for business.

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7 Bays: 5 removable, 2 hard drive
40X Max CD-ROM drive[3]
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Dual processor capable
Dual Wide Ultra2 SCSI controller
8 Bays: 4 removable, 4 hard drive
40X Max CD-ROM drive[3]
10/100 TX UTP NIC (WoL)
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NET NOW

PC PHILANTHROPY



ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

Looking for a way to get rid of that clunky old PC? Not long ago, you'd have to send it to the junk heap or make quite a few phone calls before finding a willing taker. Now **IBM** and **Dell Computer Corp.** offer help in recycling or trading in used PCs that, in many cases, earns you a tax credit for your trouble.

IBM's far-reaching plan allows anyone to dispose of an aging PC for a fee. The greatest asset of IBM's PC Recycling Service may be its availability: It can be used by anyone in North America, including non-IBM customers, and accepts any brand of personal computer (including Apple) or peripheral.

The service will donate viable PCs to Gifts In Kind International. This organization, which specializes in product donations, will place the PC with an approved charity, and the donator will receive a receipt that may be used for a tax deduction.

If your PC is really ancient, IBM will disassemble the machine and sell the parts. The company predicts that only 3 percent of used PCs will be relegated to a landfill, according Wayne Balta, director of IBM's environmental-affairs office.

If there's one catch to IBM's service, it's the $29.99 price. IBM says the fee is necessary to cover the cost of shipping via UPS.

Dell has introduced a similar, albeit free, program called DellExchange that enables PC owners to donate their PC, trade it in, or auction it off. The free donation program accepts 486 or better PCs of any brand and sends them to the National Cristina Foundation, a nonprofit that places used PCs with charities for disabled or economically disadvantaged people.

The same PC, assuming it's a 166MHz Pentium or faster, could also be offered as a trade-in by customers buying a new Dell system. In addition, the company's auction site, Dell Auction *(www.dellauction.com)*, helps Dell owners sell their PCs and peripherals.

You can get more information about IBM's recycling by calling 888-746-7426, or about DellExchange by visiting *www.dell4me.com/dellexchange.*

—John Spooner

YOU'VE GOT PAGES

For those who suffer separation anxiety when they're not connected to **America Online,** help is at hand. AOL now offers a pager that lets users send and receive e-mail and AOL instant messages.

The 4.1-ounce pager, called the AOL Mobile Communicator, sells for $329.95, plus a $19.95 monthly subscription fee. The unit is a rebranded BlackBerry pager from **Research In Motion.** The pager operates on BellSouth Corp.'s wireless data network nationwide.



ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

Members employ the mini-keyboard to sign on using an AOL name and password, then read, write, and reply to messages. The wireless device allows users to send and receive messages without tying up a phone line or accessing a desktop or laptop computer, a boon for those always on the go. Additionally, pager users can access their AOL account using one screen name while a second user simultaneously sends and receives mail on the same account, employing a computer and alternate screen name.

The only downside is that the device cannot download or view attachments, although it does indicate when attachments are present.

AOL users also may be confused about how changes made to an AOL account with the pager will affect the account when accessed by a desktop computer, and vice versa. Changes made to Buddy List groups and privacy preferences are automatically updated, but addresses that are changed or added to the Mobile Communicator's address list do not appear on the desktop AOL account.

Despite those problems, the pager is a handy gadget for confirmed AIM addicts.

—Elaine X. Grant

Tags in 10 Minutes

Ohio recently joined the growing roster of states that allow online renewal of motor-vehicle registrations. Not only can online Ohioans trim the time it takes to renew vehicle registration, but they also can customize a vanity license plate on the Web *(www.oplates.com)*.

Online renewal can be taken care of in as little as 10 minutes, according to a spokeswoman for the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Provided that the BMV has the car owner's correct address on file, he or she can take care of registration renewals from any PC and pay with any major credit card; plates and registration will arrive by mail within 10 days. Next on the Ohio BMV's list of online services is the ability to change an address, order duplicate registrations, and register leased cars.

While this is great news for residents of the Buckeye State, it's a convenience available in only 13 other states. Among them, two of the most populous states—California and New York—offer online license-plate renewal, while Massachusetts and Virginia deliver the broadest range of services.



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Some small consolation for those who can't order their dream plate online is at *www.customlicenseplates.com,* where you can order a novelty license plate for $24.95.

—Steven Abrams

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

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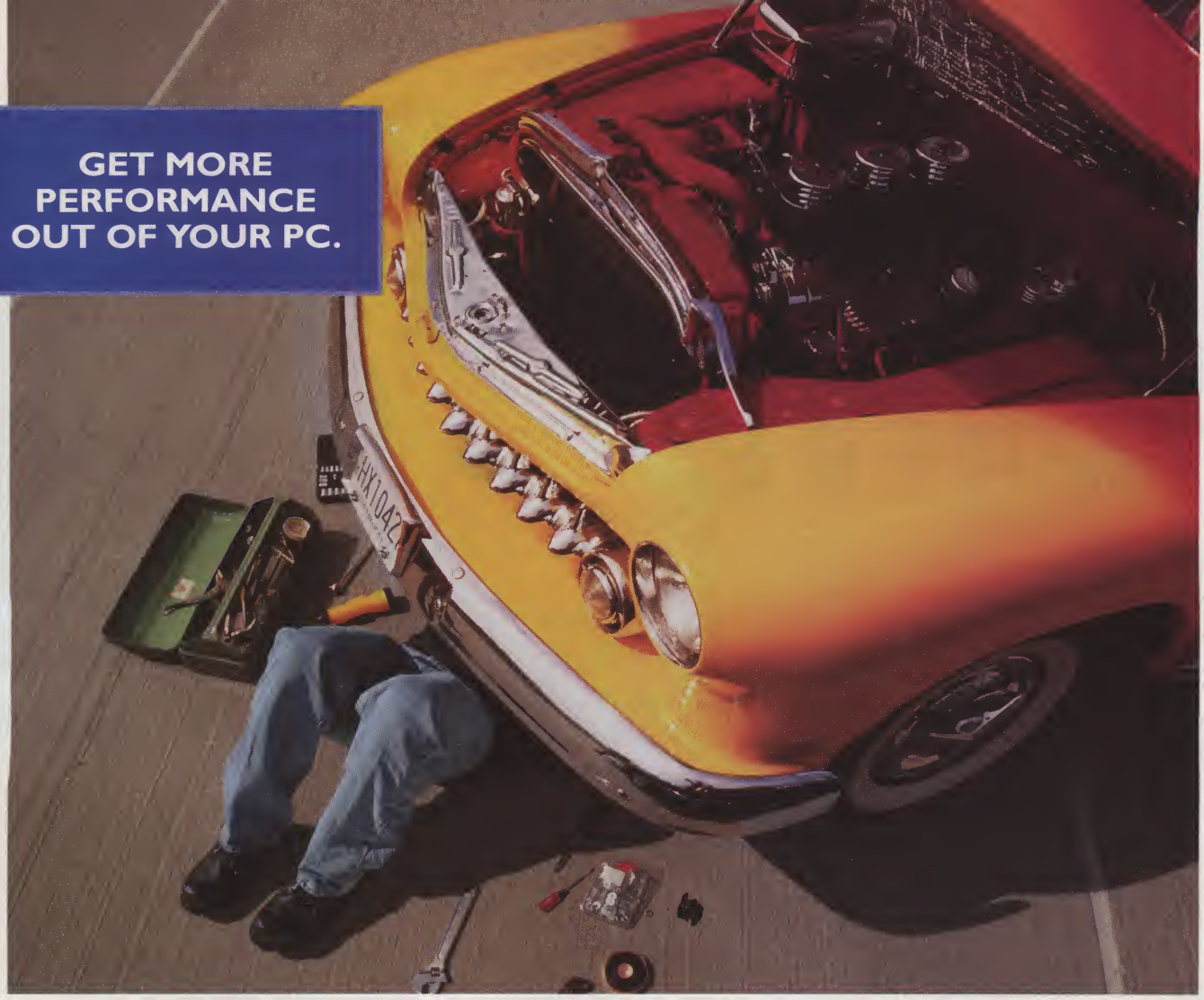
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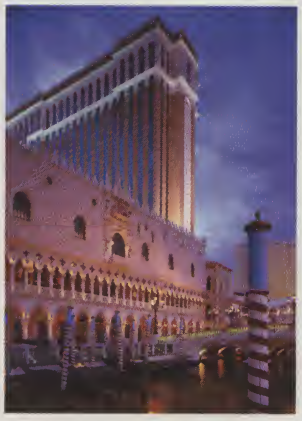
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Bluetooth Set to Check In

Las Vegas' glitzy **Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino** may evoke the Venice of yesteryear with its arched bridges, gondola-clogged canals, and busy piazzas, but it's betting that wireless technology will attract the guests of tomorrow. This spring, the 3,036-room resort will begin testing a range of Bluetooth systems that will enable guests to use their PDAs to check in, receive messages, print documents, and perform other tasks.



Vegas' Venetian goes wireless

Because it requires advance registration and setup, the Bluetooth service will target frequent guests, says Mac Graham, executive vice president of operations for **InnTechnology,** a hotel-solutions company coordinating the effort. According to Graham, the firm will launch a beta test at the Venetian in the spring, and other hotels will install the Bluetooth systems late this year.

InnTechnology and its partners recently mounted a demonstration at the Venetian using a Handspring Visor PDA equipped with a BlueConnect expansion module from WidComm. Were it all to work without a hitch—which it didn't—Bluetooth access points would recognize the PDA-wielding guest as he or she entered the lobby, then send a message to the PDA, prompting for a PIN. Each Bluetooth device has a unique number, which enables the hotel's computer system to associate that unit with a particular guest's records. The hotel system would then wirelessly provide the guest with a room number, phone and fax numbers, and any waiting messages.

The PDA also acts as a key to the room, although guests would be required to input the PIN each time they unlock the hotel-room door. After entering, an HP OfficeJet multifunction device (which the Venetian supplies in every room) would print a welcome note detailing the day's hotel activities and messages.

Other likely in-room Bluetooth implementations include wireless phone headsets, such as GN Netcom's GN 9015-BT, which plugs into any standard desktop phone and enables untethered phone conversations. Using the in-room printer, guests could wirelessly print their calendar, e-mail messages, and other data stored on the PDA.

Who will pay for such guest amenities? Graham says hotels would invest in the system based on revenue possibilities, operating-cost savings, and convenience to guests. "You need all three of these factors to deploy Bluetooth in hotels," he says. —*Rik Fairlie*

Surfing @ Sea

Looking to learn how to build your own Web page? Now you can surf the high seas for instruction.

Crystal Cruises ***(www.crystalcruises.com)*** is set to add a Web-page-design tutorial to its "Computer University @ Sea" lab program. While many cruise lines now provide some degree of Internet access aboard their ships, upscale Crystal serves up the Web 24/7 and is the only line to offer extensive training.



Ride a wave to the Web.

"We're not just the Internet café that you see in most ships," says Bret Bullock, vice president of entertainment. "In addition to the courses, we have a staff of five or more instructors in the labs on every cruise to help out and answer any questions."

The free computer courses cover topics such as Windows, e-mail, PDAs, and graphics editing. Labs aboard Crystal's two ships, the *Harmony* and the *Symphony*, are outfitted with 27 and 22 Compaq desktops, respectively. Passengers also can rent a laptop for use in their stateroom for $5 per day. Web access costs $1.25 a minute. The ships connect to the Net via satellite at speeds that range from 64Kbps to 1Mbps, depending on how many liners are sharing the same link, Bullock says.

Though Crystal is the only line to offer extensive classes, most others offer Web and e-mail access, although not always around the clock. Among these lines are Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean International, Princess Cruises, and Renaissance Cruises. —*R.F.*

VALUE LINE NOTEBOOKS

A sample of laptops found on computershopper.com

Gateway Solo 1150CL $1,299
550MHz Celeron, 64MB SDRAM, 6GB hard drive, 12.1" TFT, 4MB video memory, fixed floppy and CD-ROM, NiMH battery, 7 pounds

Acer TravelMate 524TXV $1,999
650MHz Pentium III, 64MB SDRAM, 12.1GB hard drive, 14.1" TFT, 8MB video memory, fixed floppy, modular DVD, Ethernet, lithium-ion battery, 7 pounds

Dell Inspiron 8000 $3,176
850MHz Pentium III, 128MB SDRAM, 20GB hard drive, 15" TFT, 16MB video memory, fixed DVD, modular bay, Ethernet, lithium-ion battery, 8.2 pounds

IBM ThinkPad A21p $3,999
850MHz Pentium III, 128MB SDRAM, 32GB hard drive, 15" TFT, 16MB video memory, fixed floppy, modular bay, lithium-ion battery, 7.2 pounds

$1,000 | $2,000 | $3,000 | $4,000

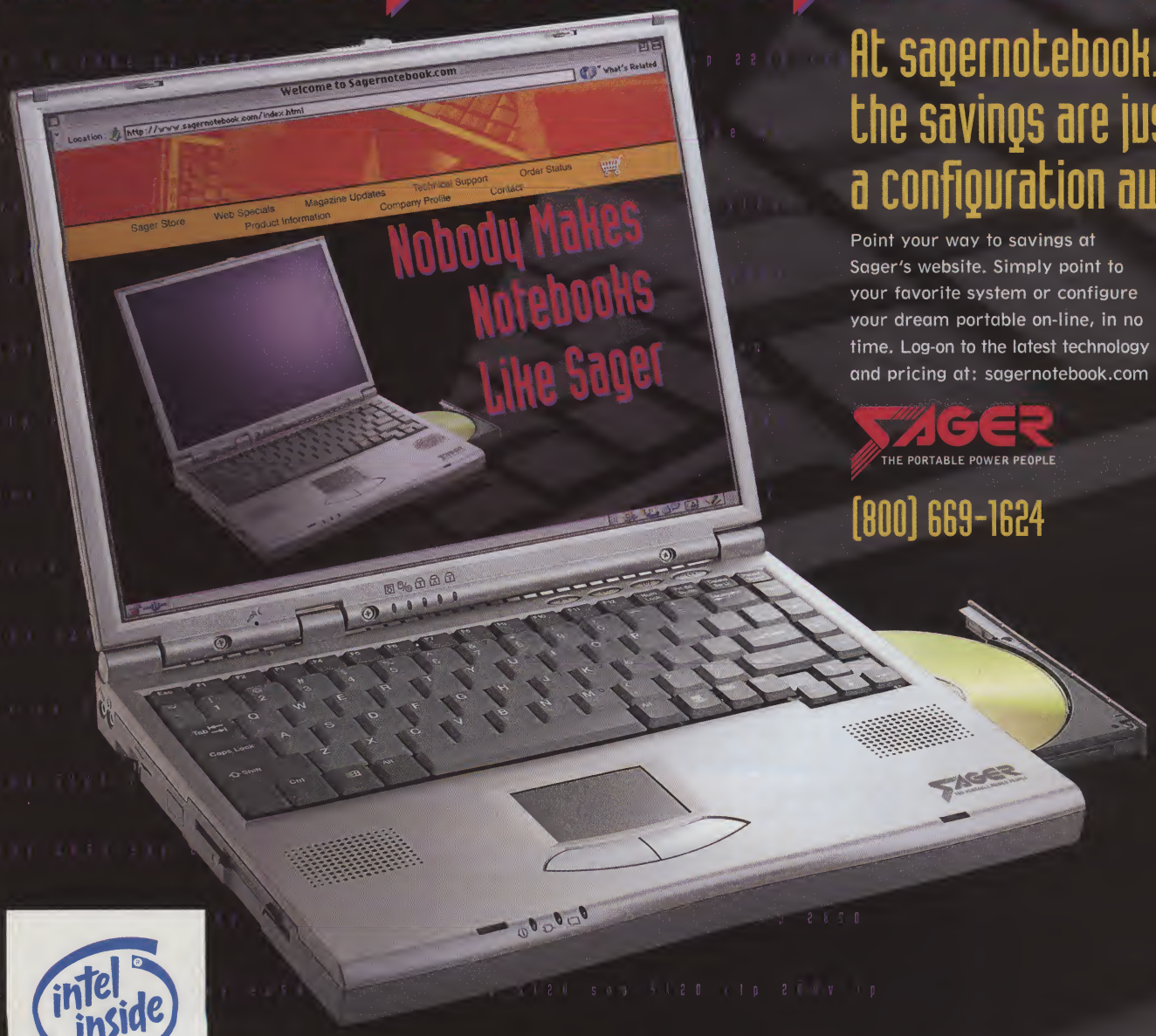
Toshiba Satellite 2805-S301 $1,940
650MHz Pentium III, 128MB SDRAM, 10GB hard drive, 14.1" TFT, 8MB video memory, fixed floppy and DVD, Ethernet, NiMH battery, 7.3 pounds

Sager NP2250-V $2,175
800MHz Pentium III, 128MB SDRAM, 20GB hard drive, 14.1" TFT, 32MB video memory, fixed floppy, modular bay, Ethernet, lithium-ion battery, 7 pounds

NEC Versa SXi $3,421
700MHz Pentium III, 128MB SDRAM, 12GB hard drive, 14.1" TFT, 8MB video memory, modular DVD, modular floppy, Ethernet, lithium-ion battery, 6.6 pounds

Source: computershopper.com, *December 12, 2000*

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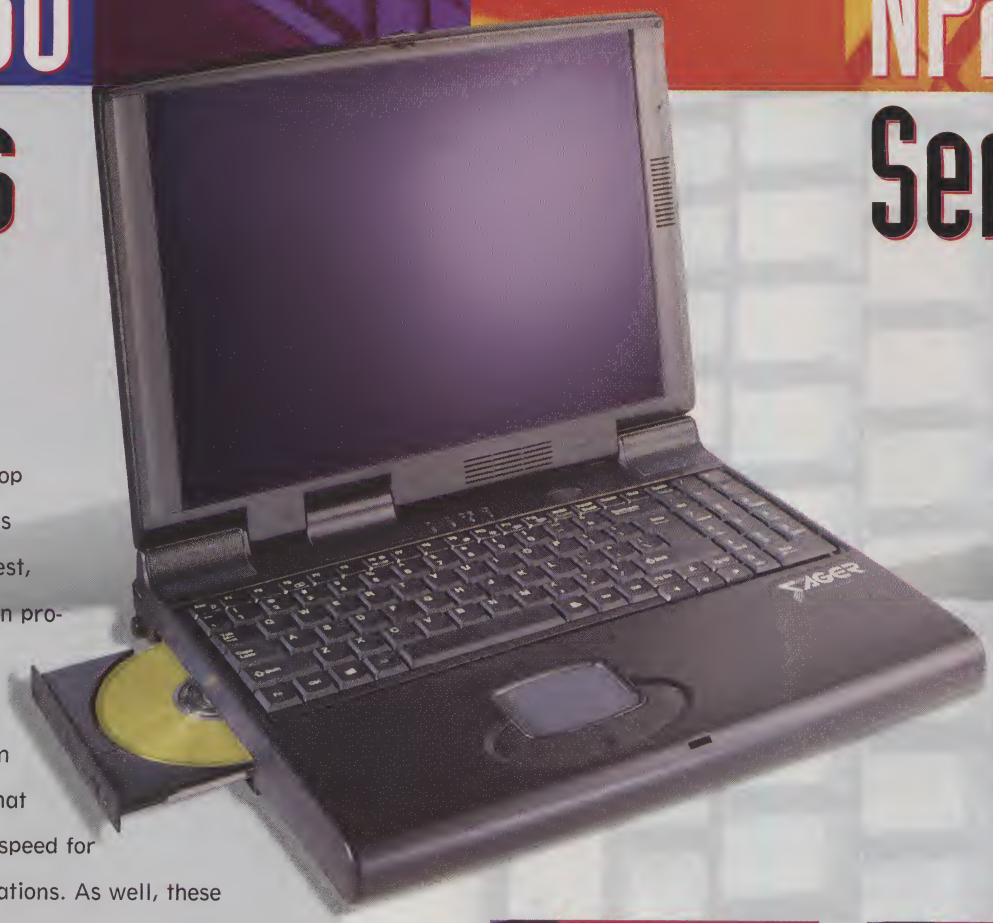
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intel inside
pentium® III

NP8560 Series

NP2850 Series



Sager's NP8560 Desktop Replacement comes loaded with the latest, cutting-edge technology in processing for a notebook. This new capability increases bandwidth from 100MHz to 133MHz and that translates into ultra-fast speed for memory intensive applications. As well, these notebooks come complete with upgraded features normally found only in a desktop computer including a huge 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display. Upgrade to the NP8560 Series for tomorrow's portable speed, built for you today.

Sager presents the ultimate notebook for viewing and graphics, under 7.1 pounds and only 1.5" thin! The NP2850 Series offers speed and agility for handling demanding graphics applications normally found only in a desktop. With a 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display, you can't ask for better viewing size or capability in a portable computer. As for graphics, the NP2850 Series comes complete with a 2X AGP Chipset and a 3D Graphics Accelerator for blazing speed.

np 8560 e

- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 850MHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 256MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 4X4X20 Max. CD-RW Drive[3]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2395

np 8560 s

- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 850MHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
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- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2045

np 2850 v

- 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 800MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 256MB SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2295

np 2850 s

- 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- 12.8"w x 10.51"d x 1.49"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 2850 c

- 15.0" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 650MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs)
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
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- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
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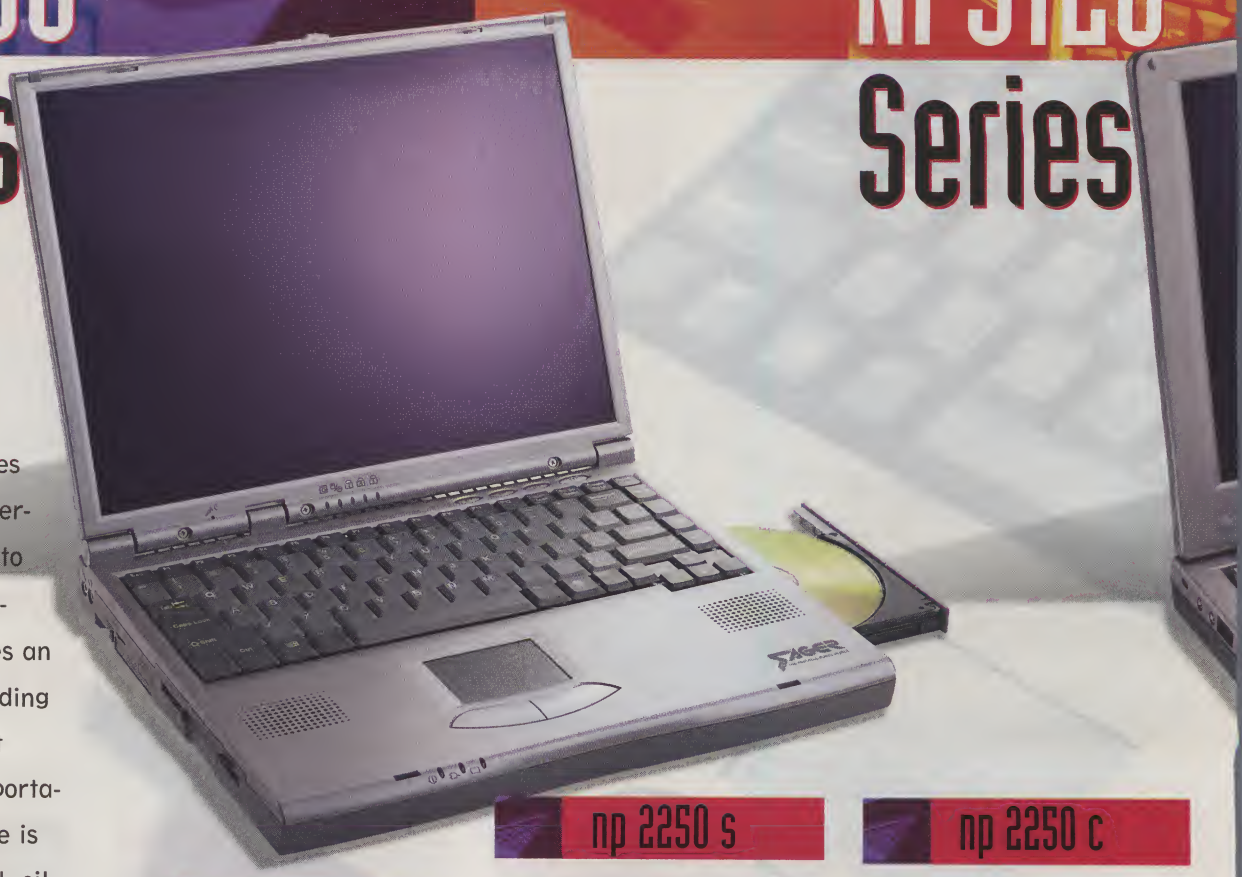
Options

- Car Adapter
- CD-RW Drive
- Iomega® Zip Drive (NP8560)
- Port Replicator
- Numeric Keypad
- USB Video-Camera
- Secondary Hard Disk Drive (NP8560)

intel inside
pentium® III

NP2250 Series

NP5120 Series



The new NP2250 Series from Sager is power-packed and ready to perform. This leading-edge notebook features an all-in-one design including advanced features not found in many other portables. All this and more is loaded into a beautiful, silver case measuring just 1.48" high. The NP2250 Series takes productivity and technology to the next level. With such a complete package, this is one solution you have to consider for any portable computing need.

np 2250 v

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 2250 s

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Pentium® III Processor 650MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
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- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
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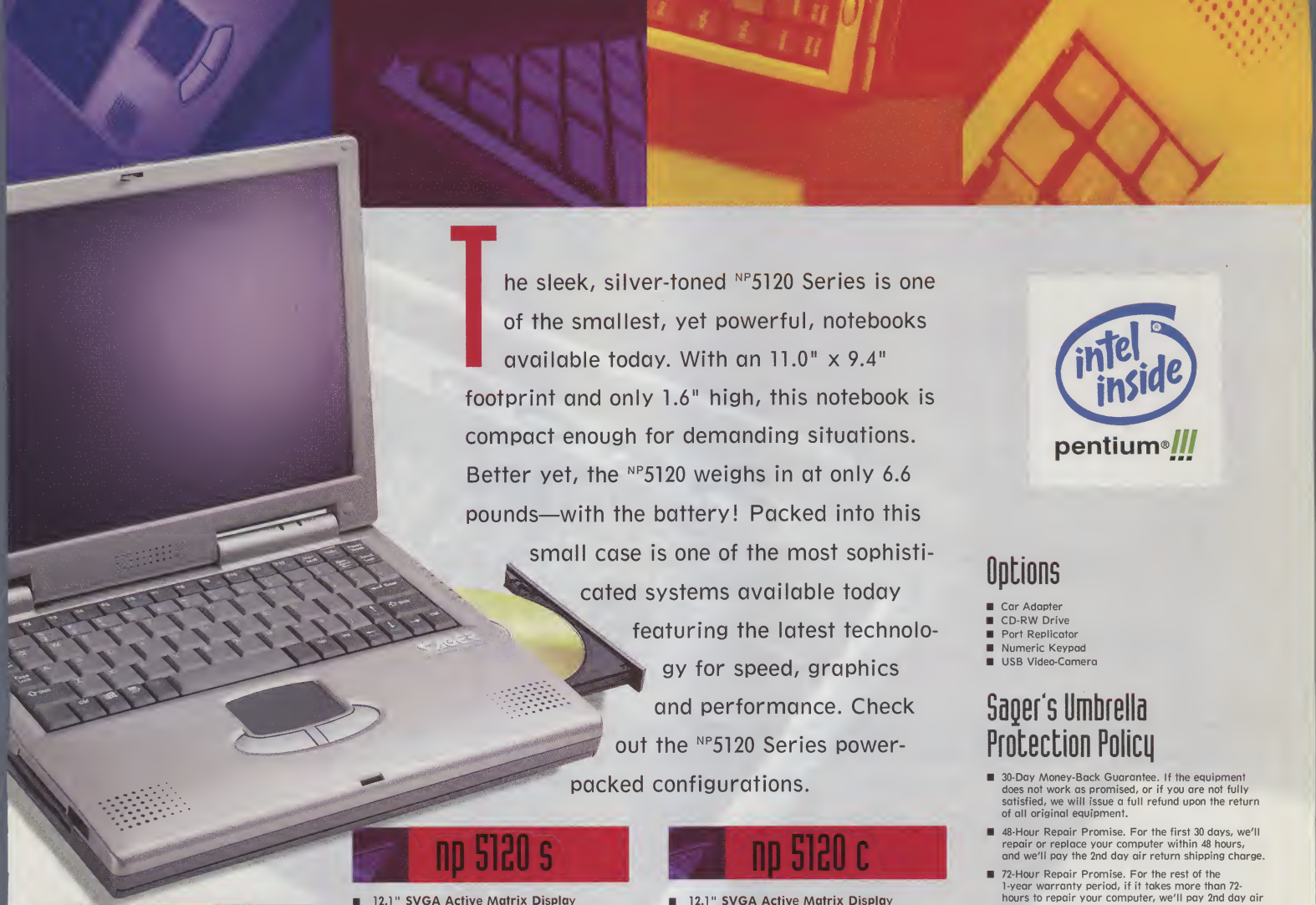
np 2250 c

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Mobile Intel® Celeron™ Processor 600MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
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- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
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The sleek, silver-toned NP5120 Series is one of the smallest, yet powerful, notebooks available today. With an 11.0" x 9.4" footprint and only 1.6" high, this notebook is compact enough for demanding situations. Better yet, the NP5120 weighs in at only 6.6 pounds—with the battery! Packed into this small case is one of the most sophisticated systems available today featuring the latest technology for speed, graphics and performance. Check out the NP5120 Series power-packed configurations.

intel inside
pentium® III

np 5120 v

- **12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Mobile Pentium® III Processor 650MHz**
- 128MB SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- **8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]**
- **Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet**
- **The Smallest All-In-One Design**
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 Kensington Lock Port
- Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.6 lbs with Battery
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- **12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display**
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- 64MB SDRAM
- 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[2]
- **Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet**
- **The Smallest All-In-One Design**
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 Kensington Lock Port
- Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.6 lbs with Battery
- 11.0"w x 9.4"d x 1.6"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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np 5120 c

- **12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display**
- **Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz**
- 64MB SDRAM
- 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- **Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet**
- **The Smallest All-In-One Design**
- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 Kensington Lock Port
- Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 6.6 lbs with Battery
- 11.0"w x 9.4"d x 1.6"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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Options

- Car Adapter
- CD-RW Drive
- Port Replicator
- Numeric Keypad
- USB Video-Camera

Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

- 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee. If the equipment does not work as promised, or if you are not fully satisfied, we will issue a full refund upon the return of all original equipment.
- 48-Hour Repair Promise. For the first 30 days, we'll repair or replace your computer within 48 hours, and we'll pay the 2nd day air return shipping charge.
- 72-Hour Repair Promise. For the rest of the 1-year warranty period, if it takes more than 72-hours to repair your computer, we'll pay 2nd day air return shipping charge.
- 1-Year Parts and Labor Limited Warranty.
- Lifetime Toll-Free Technical Support.

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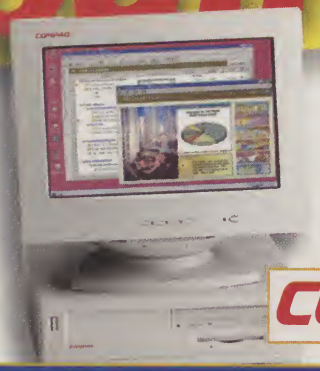
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Notes: 1, 2, 3: CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, and CD-RW drives list a variable read rate. CD-RW write and re-write speeds vary and list only the maximum possible speed. Actual CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, CD-RW speeds will vary and are often less than the maximum possible speed. 4: Maximum Transmission speed of up to 53Kps when downloading and 33.6Kps when uploading data. Actual speeds may vary depending on line conditions and current FCC restrictions.

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Windows 98
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AMD Duron processor
128MB RAM, 30GB HD
CD-RW, 56K Modem
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Windows Me
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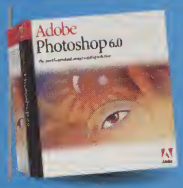


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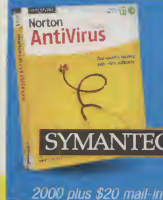
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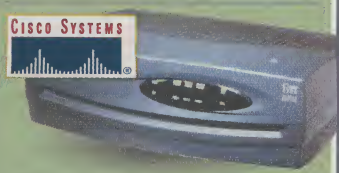
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Sony Cyber-shot DSC-P1 34239
Sony Electronics
Park Ridge, NJ; 800-222-7669
www.sel.sony.com



audio inside

Intel wants you to crank up the volume with its lightweight $299 Pocket Concert Audio Player, a 4-ounce device that can store up to 4 hours of music and 20 hours of spoken-word audio. The Pocket Concert pumps out big sound, thanks to an amplifier that is twice as powerful as that of most players, plus high-quality headphones. It ships with 128MB of onboard memory, a built-in FM tuner that can store up to 10 preset stations, and MusicMatch Jukebox Plus software. The Pocket Concert can handle MP3 and WMA formats, and it links to PCs via a USB connection.

Intel Pocket Concert Audio Player 34240
Intel Corp.
Hillsboro, OR; 800-538-3373
www.intel.com/home/audio



palm calling

The PDA and cell phone have at last formed a more perfect union with the Kyocera QCP 6035 Smartphone from Kyocera Wireless Corp. This 7.4-ounce phone fuses a CDMA/analog phone with the Palm PDA, resulting in a sleeker device than its predecessor, the bulky Qualcomm pdQ. The Smartphone costs approximately $500 and comes with a capable 8MB of memory. Besides all the usual Palm applications, it supports Net browsing via Palm Web clipping as well as a WAP browser, and includes a Tap 'n' Dial feature that enables automatic dialing from the PDA's address book. Its speakerphone function lets you simultaneously use the phone and PDA, and its side-mounted jog dial enables one-handed access to contacts, appointments, and voice memos.

Kyocera QCP 6035 Smartphone 34241
Kyocera Wireless Corp.
San Diego, CA; 800-349-4188
www.kyocera-wireless.com



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Akoo.com Kima 34242
Akoo.com
Elmwood Park, IL; 708-583-9600
www.akoo.com



for touch types

If you're serious about keeping your data under your thumb, check out the **IdentiGuard** security device from Kingston Technology. Available in either a PC Card or desktop format, this slick-looking touch-verification system reduces complex password management to a single fingerprint. It records and translates the unique characteristics of a fingerprint into a digital format that is used as a link to each of the user's passwords. That means you can conjure up highly complex passwords that can be implemented and invoked with the touch of a finger. The IdentiGuard PC Card for notebooks is priced at $199, and the USB-based desktop version costs $159. Look for a Mac-compatible device early this year.

Kingston IdentiGuard 34244
Kingston Technology
Fountain Valley, CA; 800-337-8410
www.kingston.com/identiguard



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Harman Multimedia combines eye-candy looks with sweet sound in one affordable package, the $79.99 **JBL Sonnet** three-piece speaker system. This curvy trio comprises two fist-size satellites with a stylishly compact subwoofer. The 28-watt self-powered system, which works with Macs as well as PCs, employs sophisticated transducer technology for sharp treble and thundering bass down to 45Hz. Its volume and mute controls are located on the right satellite, and the bass and treble controls are housed on the subwoofer.

Harman JBL Sonnet 34243
Harman Multimedia
Northridge, CA; 877-266-6202
www.harman-multimedia.com

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1. AOL for Home Networks service (allowing simultaneous AOL access with a PC), AOL 6.0 software, and the Home Networking Users Guide is scheduled to begin shipping in January 2001. AOL Home Networking service requires a monthly fee in addition to the standard AOL 6.0 monthly service fee. Customers will receive a separate kit with software and instructions to enable AOL for Home Networks service.

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2893



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- 3D Surround Sound
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
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- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
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- Microsoft® Windows® ME
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Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
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2293



Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. user definable share Memory Architecture
- 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- 3D Surround Sound
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 2 USB Ports
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h

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Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
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Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
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5190



Common Features

- 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. user definable share Memory Architecture
- 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- 3D Sound Effect
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCI2A Slot
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- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 USB Port
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Common Features

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- 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- 3D Surround Sound
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-ROM Drive **$1895**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 933MHz
256MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-RDM Drive **$2195**

2253



Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. user definable share Memory Architecture
- 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- 3.5" 1.44MB FDD
- 3D Surround Sound
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem + 10/100 Ethernet
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 3 Hot Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 1 TV-Out Port
- 2 USB Ports & 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1745**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
128MB 133MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-RDM Drive **$2045**

3153



Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. 2nd HDD
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- 56K Capable[3] V90 Modem
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- Slim Notebook: 12.4"w x 10.1"d x 1.4"

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1645**

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-RDM Drive **$1795**

3153



Common Features

- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
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- Carrying Case and AC Adapter
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13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
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64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive[4]
24X[2] Max. CD-ROM Drive(8X[1] Max. DVD opt.) **$1495**

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive[4]
8X[1] Max. DVD-RDM Drive **$1645**

[1]2X Minimum, [2]10X Minimum, [3]Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less. Actual data speeds will vary depending on line conditions. [4]Total HD accessible capacity may vary depending on operating environment. ©2001 by ProStar Computer Inc. All rights reserved. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, SpeedStep and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other companies and product names are trademarks of their respective companies. Dealer price is not subject to 30 days money back guarantee program. Opened software and shipping charges are non-refundable. 30-day money back guarantee does not include return freight or shipping and handling charge. Not responsible for photo or typographical errors. Price and terms subject to change without notice.

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ZDNet

BEST BUY



micronpc.com
Millennia Max XP

Computer Shopper and ZDNet editors pick the best values among the latest tech products.

DESKTOPS

Compaq Presario 7000Z-1.1

At nearly $3,000, the Presario 7000Z-1.1 clearly isn't an impulse buy. But if you're looking for a system that has every desirable feature—from a fast 1.1GHz Athlon CPU to a 75GB hard drive, three IEEE 1394 ports, and a GeForce2 GTS Ultra graphics



card—the 7000Z-1.1 belongs on your short list. Its one-year warranty is too short, but you can buy another two years of coverage for an additional $149.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE
Compaq Computer Corp. • 800-888-0220
www.compaq.com
Direct Price: $2,851 34130

micronpc.com Millennia Max XP

Not only is the Millennia Max XP the first computer to use DDR memory, but this fully loaded 1.2GHz Athlon PC can hold its own against 1.5GHz Pentium 4 systems in benchmark performance and features. Just as impressive: You can purchase the Millennia Max for approximately $1,000 less than comparable Pentium 4 rigs.

SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 108
micronpc.com • 888-224-4247
www.micronpc.com
Direct Price: $2,699 34218

SOFTWARE

ACDSee 3.1

This powerful image viewer and organizer gives you plenty of options for viewing and manipulating your image files, including choices for input and output methods, adjusting photos, creating contact sheets, and converting multiple files to new formats. ACDSee 3.1 isn't a full-blown image editor, but its efficient interface makes small adjustments a snap.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
ACD Systems • 800-579-5309
www.acdsystems.com
Direct Price: $49.95 34058

CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite

Both casual users and graphics professionals will enjoy working with Corel's improved graphics suite. This version includes a new vector-animation program, Corel RAVE, as well as streamlined interfaces for CorelDraw and Photo-Paint. New color-management tools are smartly designed, with presets optimized for specialized tasks. And though the suite still can't import Flash files, CorelDraw's new Undo feature is sweet compensation.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE
Corel Corp. • 800-772-6735
www.corel.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $569.99 34132

Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001

The Microsoft Encarta Reference Suite 2001 provides you with a bookshelf's worth of interactive reference works, including a world atlas, a dictionary, and, of course, the Encarta Encyclopedia. The applications share a common browser-like interface, which gives you easy access to Encarta's hundreds of thousands of articles, images, and video clips.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Microsoft Corp. • 888-218-5617
www.microsoft.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $74.95 34055

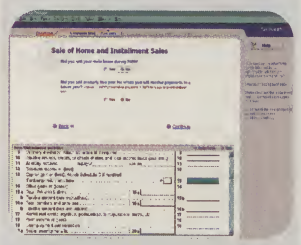
Microsoft Publisher 2000

A sleek interface, talented wizards, tasteful clip art, and the most versatile output options around make Microsoft Publisher 2000 our prime pick in desktop-publishing software. Superb, simple-to-use formatting tools will have you publishing like a pro in no time. What's more, the well-integrated and powerful Web-publishing tools make it incredibly easy to create a smart-looking Web site.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Microsoft Corp. • 800-426-9400
www.microsoft.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $99.95 34065

Quicken TurboTax Deluxe

The simplicity and accuracy of TurboTax Deluxe has kept the software tops in its field for years. That winning streak continues with the 2001 edition. In addition to improving on its already easy-to-use interface and



help resources, the program now lets you import W-2 and 1099 info. Unfortunately, it doesn't make it any easier to fill out the checks that accompany your annual returns.

SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 136
Intuit • 800-335-1348
www.turbotax.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $39.95 (before $10 rebate, valid until October) 34203



Hercules Game Theater XP

HARDWARE

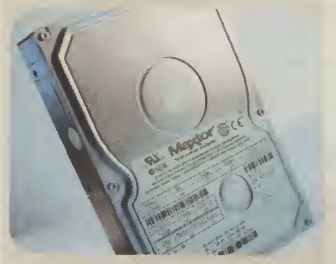
Hercules Game Theater XP

PC audio enthusiasts can go all out with this combination sound card and outboard connector box. The sound card offers everything from 20-bit digital-to-analog conversion to support for Dolby Digital processing, EAX 2.0, and A3D 1.0. The connector box, meanwhile, boasts a full complement of input/outputs, including four USB ports, MIDI-in and -out, and digital S/PDIF inputs and outputs.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 77
Hercules • 877-484-5536
www.hercules.com
List Price: $149.99 34206

Maxtor DiamondMax 80

Maxtor has surpassed itself in offering the most bytes for the buck. Although it spins at a modest 5,400 rpm, the DiamondMax 80 gives you an incredible 81.9GB of drive



space, which translates to approximately $3.66 per gig.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE
Maxtor Corp. • 800-262-9867
www.maxtor.com
List Price: $299.95 34054

Sonigistix Monsoon MM-2000 Flat Panel Surround System

The latest offering from Sonigistix furthers its reputation for building audiophile-quality flat-panel speaker systems. The new Monsoon MM-2000 is a five-piece, four-channel setup that consists of four sexy, thin satellites and a hefty cone-driven subwoofer. Although the MM-2000 lacks Dolby Pro Logic and Dolby Digital capability, it's priced reasonably for the performance it delivers.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE
Sonigistix Corp. • 877-722-8346
www.monsoonaudio.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $299 34159

GAMES

Age of Empires II: The Conquerors Expansion

This add-on to last year's masterful Age of Empires II is no mere expansion pack. Sure, it brings in five new civilizations—the Aztecs, Huns, Koreans, Mayans, and Spanish—and dozens of new technologies. But it's the subtle touches, such as the smarter villages and farms that replant crops, that make this title a classic in its own right.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE

Microsoft Corp. • 800-426-9400
www.microsoft.com/games
Mfr. Est. Price: $54.95 34061

Command & Conquer: Red Alert 2

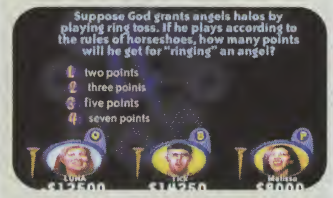
The latest installment in the Command & Conquer series is an engaging real-time-strategy gem steeped in an alternate reality in which the Soviet Union invades the United States following World War II. Although the game incorporates all of the familiar C&C elements, Westwood has added some brilliant new touches, including a tabbed construction bar in the interface and numerous multiplayer options. We'll take Manhattan, comrade.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE

Westwood Studios • 702-228-4040
www.westwood.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $39.95 34151

You Don't Know Jack 5th Dementia

The latest installment in the popular game-show-inspired PC game series features 600 new questions delivered in Jack's unique style of irreverent humor. In addition to its usual three-contestants-at-one-PC style of gameplay, 5th Dementia introduces a new network play mode, a completely seamless



link for challenging friends and strangers online. If you don't know Jack, this is a great way to make the acquaintance.

SEE THIS MONTH'S REVIEW ON P. 106

Sierra Attractions • 425-649-9800
www.ydkj.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $29.95 34229

WEB SERVICES

Snapfish

For $1.69 per roll, Snapfish will develop your 35mm film, send you back your prints on high-quality paper, and post your images online. The service even sends you postage-paid mailers and accepts disposable cameras. Photo cards, frames, and reprints are available, as are online albums.

The catch? You have to view your snapshots on the Snapfish Web site within 30 days, but that seems reasonable to us.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE

Snapfish • 415-820-3888
www.snapfish.com
Direct Price: $1.69 per roll (up to 24 rolls per year) 34152



Handspring Visor Platinum



Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC

MOBILE

Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC

As capable as it is comely, the Compaq iPaq H3650 marries a fast 206MHz Intel StrongARM processor, 32MB of RAM, and a color LCD, and wraps it up in a dazzling chrome enclosure. But what makes this Pocket PC truly special is its use of plastic sleeves, called Expansion Packs, which add a CompactFlash or PC Card slot for almost unlimited connectivity options.

SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 120

Compaq Computer Corp. • 800-282-6672
www.compaq.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $499 34224

Handspring Visor Platinum

It's the same size and weight as earlier Visors, but the new Visor Platinum steps up with a speedy 33MHz Motorola processor and 8MB of memory (enough for 12,000 addresses, 10 years of appointments, 6,000 to-do items, 6,000 memos, and 400 e-mail messages). It also ships with the latest Palm OS, all the standard Palm apps, and a cradle that uses a USB connection. A smart choice, hands down.

SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 120

Handspring • 888-565-9393
www.handspring.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $299 34225

HP Pavilion N5190

With its stylish design, excellent feature set, and good application performance, the HP Pavilion N5190 is a great choice in a midrange consumer notebook. At 7.2 pounds, this 700MHz Pentium III-based system is no featherweight, but it's packed with cool features, including a DVD drive, dedicated audio-CD controls, and a wide, comfortable keyboard. You *can* take it with you, after all.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE

Hewlett-Packard Co. • 800-752-0900
www.hp.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $2,399 34120

IBM ThinkPad A21p

Despite its top-flight components and sleek engineering, the IBM ThinkPad A21p weighs a relatively slight 7.2 pounds. But don't let its lack of heft fool you. This fully loaded desktop replacement comes packed with an 850MHz Pentium III engine, 128MB of SDRAM, a monstrous 32GB hard drive, a vivid 15-inch LCD, and an 8x DVD-ROM drive. At $3,699, it's not for everyone—only those who want the best.

REVIEWED IN JANUARY ISSUE

IBM Corp. • 800-426-7235
www.ibm.com
Direct Price: $3,699 34098

Pacific Neo-Tek OmniRemote

Are remote-control devices mysteriously proliferating in your family room? If so, consider the Pacific Neo-Tek OmniRemote. You can transform your Handspring Visor into a fully programmable and highly capable universal remote for a television, cable



box, VCR, audio equipment—up to 15 devices in all.

REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE

Pacific Neo-Tek • ***www.pacificneotek.com***
Mfr. Est. Price: $59.95 34124

Palm VIIx

Mobile executives are bound to turn some heads with the stylish Palm VIIx. But the real eye-opener is its wireless access to the Internet and clever Palm Query Apps (PQAs), hundreds of tiny Web-clipping applets that display dynamic or static data from a wide range of sites. The only downside: You pay a premium price for the monthly wireless service.

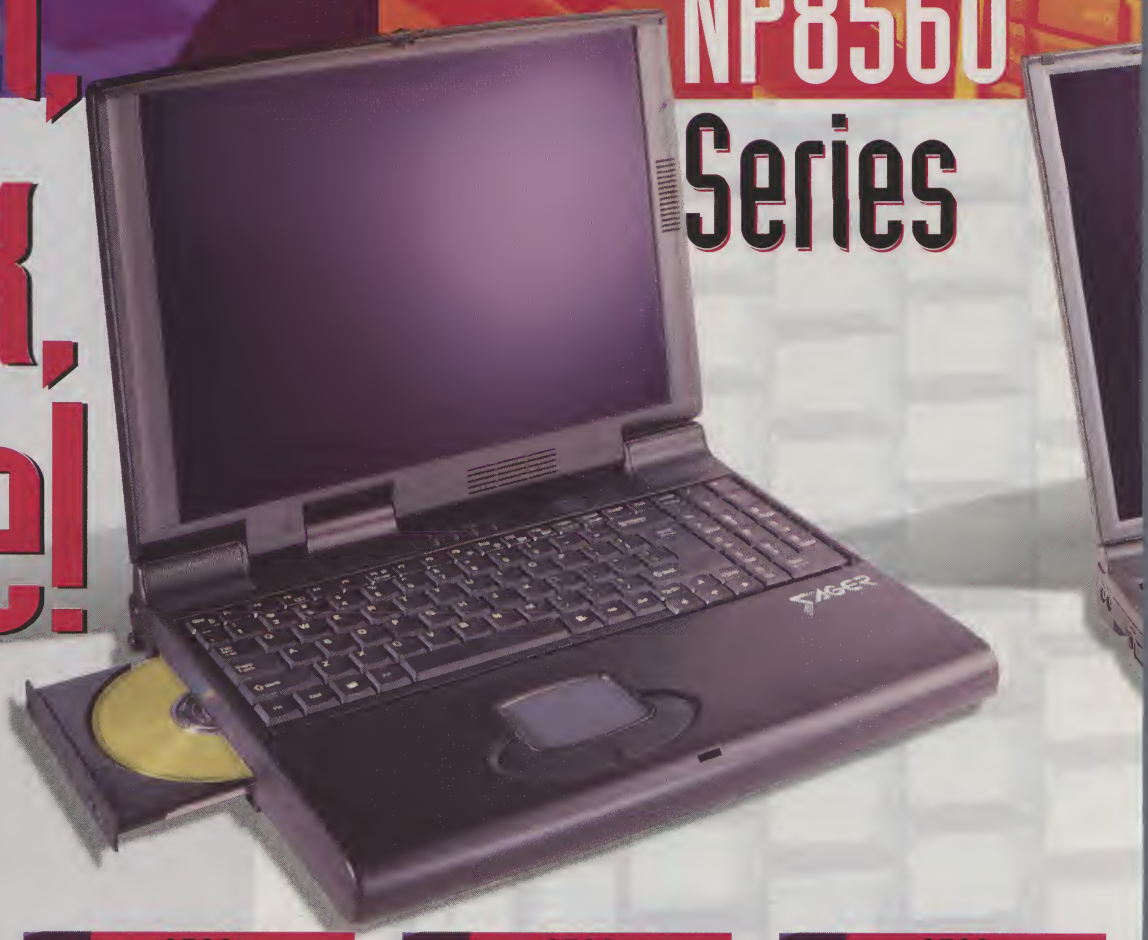
SEE THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ON P. 120

Palm • 800-881-7256
www.palm.com
Mfr. Est. Price: $449 34227

00000 = ZDNet Price It!™ For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

Point, Click, Save!

NP8560 Series



Introducing the fastest processing available in a notebook!

Sager's NP8560 Desktop Replacement comes loaded with the latest, cutting-edge technology in processing for a notebook. This new capability increases bandwidth from 100MHz to 133MHz and that translates into ultra-fast speed for memory intensive applications. As well, these notebooks come complete with upgraded features normally found only in a desktop computer including a huge 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display. Upgrade to the NP8560 Series for tomorrow's portable speed, built for you today.

np 8560 v

- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 933MHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 256MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- Modular 8X Max. DVD-ROM[2] and 4X4X20 Max. CD-RW Drive[3] (both included)
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- Modular Iomega® Zip Drive and 3.5" FDD
- 15-Cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- 102-Key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- IEEE-1394 Port
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2595

np 8560 s

- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 933MHz
- 16MB Video Memory
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
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- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
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- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2295

np 8560 c

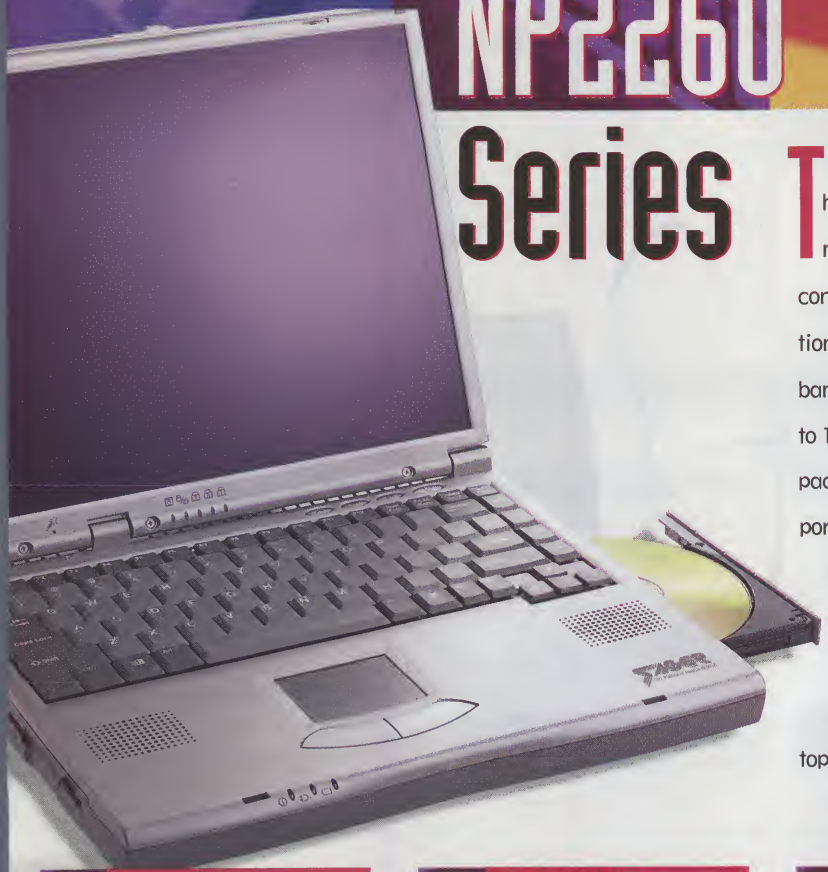
- 15.0" SXGA+ Active Matrix Display
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- 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
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- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- 14.0"w x 11.0"d x 2.2"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2045

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NP2260 Series



The NP2260 Series is the ultimate for today's demanding connectivity and communications needs. With processing bandwidth boosted from 100MHz to 133MHz, this Series comes packed with all the standard ports plus an IEEE-1394, TV-out and two USB. For even greater access a built-in 56K Fax/Modem and 10/100 Ethernet make this one laptop that deserves a second look.

np 2260 v

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 933MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive[2]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE-1394 Port and 1 TV-out Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$2095

np 2260 s

- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 866MHz
- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
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- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE-1394 Port and 1 TV-out Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
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- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1895

np 2260 c

- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
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- Integrated 4X AGP Graphics with 32MB Max. User Definable Share Memory Architecture
- 128MB 133MHz SDRAM
- 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive[1]
- Integrated 56K V90 Modem[4] + 10/100 Ethernet
- 3 Hot-Keys for E-Mail, Browser and API
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 3D Surround Sound
- Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- 1 IEEE-1394 Port and 1 TV-out Port
- Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows® ME
- Deluxe Carrying Case
- Weight: 7.0 lbs with Battery
- 12.1"w x 10.0"d x 1.48"h
- Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

$1745

Options

- Car Adapter
- CD-RW Drive
- Iomega® Zip Drive (NP8560)
- Port Replicator
- Numeric Keypad
- USB Video-Camera
- Secondary Hard Disk Drive (NP8560)

Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

- 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee. If the equipment does not work as promised, or if you are not fully satisfied, we will issue a full refund upon the return of all original equipment.
- 48-Hour Repair Promise. For the first 30 days, we'll repair or replace your computer within 48 hours, and we'll pay the 2nd day air return shipping charge.
- 72-Hour Repair Promise. For the rest of the 1-year warranty period, if it takes more than 72-hours to repair your computer, we'll pay 2nd day air return shipping charge.
- 1-Year Parts and Labor Limited Warranty.
- Lifetime Toll-Free Technical Support.

Umbrella Policy Applies to End Users in the United States of America and in Canada only and 48-Hour/ 72-Hour repair policies apply to hardware only. Software problems may take longer.

Extended Warranty Available

Check out this comprehensive package of service/support.

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JOHN BLACKFORD



Digital Ubiquity: Still On Hold

Seamless links among PDAs, cell phones, LANs, and the Web are coming—in the slow lane.

Naturally, I'm talking here about *data* ubiquity—your ability to access information instantly, on any device within reach. This relates to Bill Gates' promise of "information at your fingertips," and to AOL's current slogan for mobile computing, "AOL Anywhere."

Such visions are well and good, but consumers are beginning to ask just when their growing pile of smart devices will really interconnect. Until they do, you'll probably have to maintain multiple versions of your data: one set on the company LAN, another batch of names on your PDA, a separate list on your cell phone, and perhaps a version on the home PC. Even notes jotted on paper can be easier to find than data on a server you can't access (and handwritten notes are far easier to create than messages typed on a numbers-only cell-phone keypad).

THUMB MAIL

Then, there's the interface problem: Cell phones and PDAs are unwieldy for entering data, though the idea of merged devices shows promise. Offering smoother integration, the newest merged-function units offer mini-keyboard PDAs with built-in cell phones.

In some cases, dedicated devices, such as Research In Motion's BlackBerry two-way messaging unit, can help by doing one thing (wireless e-mail) really well. The preferred technique for the BlackBerry is to type with your thumbs. (Hey, it works.)

To handle variations among data protocols, some new units will combine technologies—handling cell protocols, plus Bluetooth, wireless Ethernet (IEEE 802.11), and perhaps even IR.

Initial steps toward ubiquity will occur in the form of cooperative agreements among key players. Palm, for example, is teaming up with Igenico, Visa, and VeriFone to produce eWallet—literally aiming to replace your wallet by allowing Palm's built-in IR interface to pay for products at the checkout counter. (Palm is also in a deal with Sprint to offer a cobranded wireless Internet service.) Similarly, RealNetworks and Texas Instruments recently teamed up to offer streaming audio and video for mobile phones and wireless devices.

Of course, getting giant companies to cooperate on resolving the complexities of interconnectivity is its own challenge. One reason the FCC required AOL Time Warner to provide competitors' content on its cable systems is to prevent the media conglomerate from using its advantage in cable to limit consumers' access to news from other providers.

DATA: THE NEXT GENERATION

One of the big hurdles for integration is simply making cell phones more capable. The much-touted third-generation (3G) cell standard aims to do that by replacing today's slow second-generation (2G) systems with speeds up to 2Mbps for stationary devices and 384Kbps for mobile ones.

However, in most cases, this will require new radio frequencies—which means multi-billion-dollar equipment upgrades, plus the cost of the spectrum. The government's auction of frequencies needed for the 3G devices netted $12 billion as of January. Some analysts have suggested that the stratospheric cost of 3G could destabilize the economies of the United States and Europe. (One reason Japan's telcomm giant, DoCoMo, will be the first to deploy 3G, in the first half of this year, is that it got the needed spectrum for free.)

In any case, in the U.S., 3G won't make an impact for a couple of years. In the interim, some telcomms are betting on the so-called 2.5G standard to improve services sooner. Based on General Packet Radio Service (GPRS), 2.5G will be able to deliver 115Kbps on existing wireless systems, a far less costly approach.

Despite lots of media attention, advanced wireless services don't ignite great consumer demand in the U.S. Thus, the piecemeal approach of advancing via 2.5G may be best. Based on limited agreements among providers of devices, services, and standards, consumers will gradually learn to use what's available.

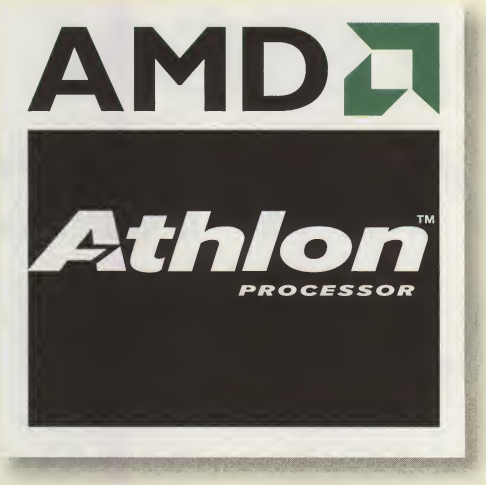
With any luck, by the time the telcomms begin the costly shift to 3G, consumers will be willing to pay.

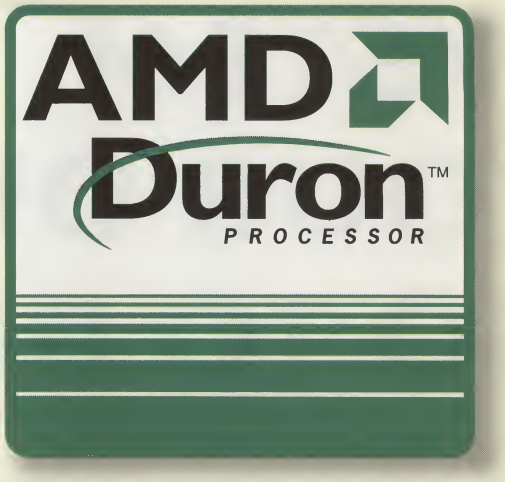
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JOHN DVORAK



Thinner, Flatter CRTs Are on the Horizon

A new CRT technology known as the field emitter display should make "flat" more affordable.

WHEN WILL THE CRT DISAPPEAR AND LEAVE US WITH A world of flat-panel displays (FPDs)? No time soon, the way things look. The CRT manufacturing process is well-established, and CRTs are inexpensive to make. And unless China abandons the concept of becoming an even cheaper producer, the world will be flooded with cheap CRTs for years. But a variation—a flat CRT—will be in our hands this year.

This topic comes to mind after two recent experiences. In one, a guest on my TV show, *Silicon Spin*, hinted everyone should wait six months before buying a color PDA. Apparently, he learned under nondisclosure of a new, bright, visible-in-sunlight, color display.

The other was a demonstration of a new Texas Instruments technology. Researchers were showing off a wireless OS on a mock color phone display. As I took my eyes from the screen, I noticed the strobe and realized the dinky little display wasn't an LCD. They told me it was a "thin-film CRT." They used it because it was bright. In fact, this was a field emitter display (FED).

The FED has been under development by two companies, Candescent and Pixtech, each with a different approach. The idea is to use an array of tiny cathodes placed directly behind the phosphor. Although TI told me this wasn't an FED but a thin-film CRT, I found the answer on Candescent's Web site ***(www.candescent.com)***. The company renamed the technology "ThinCRT."

Aside from the cost differential between CRTs and FPDs, another factor keeps FPDs from dominating the market. FPD technologies are manifold and in flux. Although the CRT may have added a few pixels over time, we won't see the kind of developmental changes we're seeing with FPDs. The FED takes advantage of much of the work already done on CRTs.

FEDs have been in development for nine years and in discussion for decades. Four years ago I was told they could be cheaper to produce than LCDs, and could be made small or large with no scalability problems. The LCD was limited in size. The plasma display was an alternative, but it was too power-hungry and could only be large. It would never be cost-effective. The FED would solve all this and become the rage.



Then came the various problems with phosphor burnout, manufacturing, and other glitches. Until I saw this display, I didn't think I'd ever see an FED in operation.

This could be the "bright" display my guest was discussing. It's supposed to be low power, and it could be used in a handheld application. And there must have been some reason TI was using one in a demo.

Because FED technology is fashioned after that of CRTs, it has both its advantages and disadvantages. The glass vessel is flattened, and instead of having a gun that scans the screen to hit various phosphors through holes in a shadow mask, it puts a panel of tiny emitters behind the phosphors. A "focusing grid" acts in much the same way as a CRT's shadow mask. The package is 8mm thick when sandwiched together. The resulting brightness is identical to that of a normal tube.

The displays should deliver a brighter image with better viewing angles than any LCD and with none of the smearing you get with plasma, according to Candescent. They also consume less power than LCDs, likely because the LCD backlight is a power hog. Claims say it uses less wattage than an LCD "at equivalent brightness." Because the FED is inherently bright, this claim is dubious. To pump up an LCD to equivalent brightness means jacking up the backlight.

I'd recommend a visit to the Candescent Web site for more details. I was amused by the company's argument that "no independent source" is a drawback to LCDs: "The major FPD producers are captive operations of companies such as Fujitsu, Hitachi, IBM, Matsushita, NEC, Samsung, Sharp, and Toshiba. These companies give first pick of their latest FPD products to their own in-house system groups, leaving customers at a distinct disadvantage." Please! A company such as Samsung could never suck up its own supply of LCDs for Samsung-branded products. And are vendors supposed to believe eight suppliers of LCDs is a bad thing, while one supplier of FEDs is a good thing?

Marketing hype aside, unmentioned issues of flicker and durability do exist. The FED display I saw flickered noticeably. Perhaps the prototype I looked at was an exception, but if not, that's not good. And the display is glass under a vacuum. Although I've cracked a few screens myself, most LCDs can withstand some abuse. This screen looks very susceptible to damage.

Apparently, the FED is finally making its way toward us and will be marketed as a ThinCRT. I'd prefer they call it a cathode array tube, or CAT, which is what it is. Whatever it's called, lots of hype will surround its introduction.

dvorak@dvorak.org

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS LENSCH

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JIM O'BRIEN



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Sites That Serve Net-Savvy Swells

Luxury shopping sites learn to ignore stereotypes and focus on customers.

MORE AND MORE PURVEYORS OF LUXURY GOODS ARE making their way to the Web. Upscale department store Neiman Marcus has an e-commerce site, as does Saks Fifth Avenue. And in the cottage industry of "luxury portals," Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton arrived last summer with eLuxury.com. There the wealthy can buy everything from $78 3.4-ounce bottles of Michael Kors to $3,000 Bvlgari watches.

When companies design sites for the rich, though, they tend to emphasize pretty pictures over utility. ELuxury.com, for instance, starts with one of those dreaded animated introductions and the requisite "skip intro" button, indicating the company knows this feature's annoying but couldn't resist keeping it in.

Cartoonish silhouettes dominate the home page. And learning the navigation is like working a Rubik's Cube. Hovering your mouse over these figures reveals product highlights ("Donna Karan 4 Button jacket, $395" or "Pommery Pop 4 Pack, $44"). Eventually, you may notice the tiny icons at the top that take you to different departments. (The icons for women's and men's fashions look more like signs directing you to the restrooms.) Each of these departments loads its own set of cartoonish figures. Even with my cable modem, the site displayed temporary "Loading" messages.

RICH ISN'T OLD-FASHIONED

One reason some luxury sites aren't in the same league as mainstream shopping sites is they accept the stereotype of the rich as averse to technology. They make their sites pretty instead of functional.

These stereotypes couldn't be further from the truth. Fifty-six percent of millionaires are on the Internet, spending an average of $100 a month, according to Forrester Research. That's twice what everyone else spends. Furthermore, they're technology optimists who consider themselves early adopters, with two-thirds using their two-PCs-per-household every day. They're 13 percent more likely to buy online than other Net users and have much higher "buy-to-look" ratios. About the only things they don't buy more of online are entertainment products such as CDs and videos. Perhaps most surprising is the discovery that most millionaires want good prices, and the overwhelming majority care about shipping costs.

People, no matter how wealthy they are, have certain needs when they shop online,



and those needs center around value and service. The winning sites will be the ones that pay attention to what their customers really want.

BRANDS ARE FOR BUILDING

Internet pure-play Ashford.com, which has thrived even as other jewelry sites such as Miadora (and subsidiary Jewelry.com) and iJewelry shut down, appears to understand that. The site takes an average order size of $500, a substantial portion of which is margin, and still guarantees free overnight shipping. It recently branched into accessories, vintage watches, pens, and even corporate gifts.

"Loyalty is service and selection, and the power of the Internet is all about what people want," says Mary Lou Kelley, vice president of marketing. "We monitor shopping-bag abandon rates, and we are maniacally focused on anything we think is a hindrance. You can have the most prestigious brand name in the world, but anything that makes someone doubt your site—even if it's just the lack of an in-stock indicator—can make them give up on you online." In the ultimate defiance of the absolute power of established brands, Ashford.com even carries a line of private-label products.

Ashford.com's graphics are small and organized, and the full product breadth is easy to access through consistent navigation. Research tells Ashford.com its customers know what they want and value speed. So the site provides content such as an editorial column on fashion, but it doesn't beat you over the head with it.

Some luxury sites will succeed based on services. Forrester found wealthy shoppers are early adopters of replenishment services such as groceries because they're pressed for time. Another service provider is Model E. The site provides concierge services for customers' automobiles on a subscription basis. Service personnel pick up your car, wash it, perform all scheduled and emergency maintenance, and make sure you have transportation in the meantime. For an extra fee, they'll even deliver a Porsche Boxster, BMW SUV, Audi TT, or other luxury car to you, in special colors and with aftermarket upgrades. You don't even lease the vehicle; you merely "subscribe to it." Recently, the company introduced a prototype for a radical private-label car/truck hybrid for the Gen-X and dot-com millionaire set, called the Tritanium.

In the world of luxury goods and services, brand is what you make of it. Good brands don't mean a thing if the user experience isn't there.

jobrien_eshopper@mail.com

ILLUSTRATION BY MATT FOSTER

MICHAEL SLATER



The Multifunction Quandary

Information appliances are combining more and more capabilities into a single device. But do these combinations make sense?

AS WE MOVE INTO THE ERA OF PERVASIVE COMPUTING, IN which PCs will be complemented by a diverse assortment of information appliances, one of the toughest design decisions is determining how many functions to integrate into one product. The issues are surprisingly complex.

The PC is the ultimate example of a multifunction, general-purpose device, capable of a wide range of tasks. At the other end of the spectrum, an MP3 player does just one thing. By focusing on one capability, its size can be reduced to a minimum, and its controls and interface are designed especially for that function.

These two examples are clear-cut; few others are. Consider the PDA. You can treat a PDA as a device with a small set of fixed functions: calendar, contact list, and notes. But a PDA can do many other things, from playing games to viewing photo albums. And it can play MP3 files.

Does it make sense to keep adding functions to a handheld device? It depends on whether you can perform those functions effectively within the physical constraints of the device. Once you've invested in a device with a processor, memory, and an LCD—and go to the trouble of carrying it with you—it makes sense to give it additional functions that naturally fit.

Just how far to take this expandability remains a question. Handspring has demonstrated a Visor handheld with a cell-phone add-on, and Microsoft has shown a similar product based on its Pocket PC platform. Does this make sense? In one way, it does; after all, you often need to enter into your cell phone the number you look up on your handheld.

It's unclear, however, just how popular this combination will be. The phone adds significant cost, so it isn't the same as just adding another program. Furthermore, the physical interfaces are fundamentally different. A PDA needs a much larger screen than a phone, and a phone needs a microphone and a speaker. It's no coincidence cell phones and PDAs are shaped differently.

By connecting a headset to the PDA, its physical shape can be made usable as a phone. But it still won't fit as easily in a pocket, and the headset can be awkward. The best solution is to have a separate phone and PDA that communicate and act together, but that you can use separately. Bluetooth will make such an approach practical.

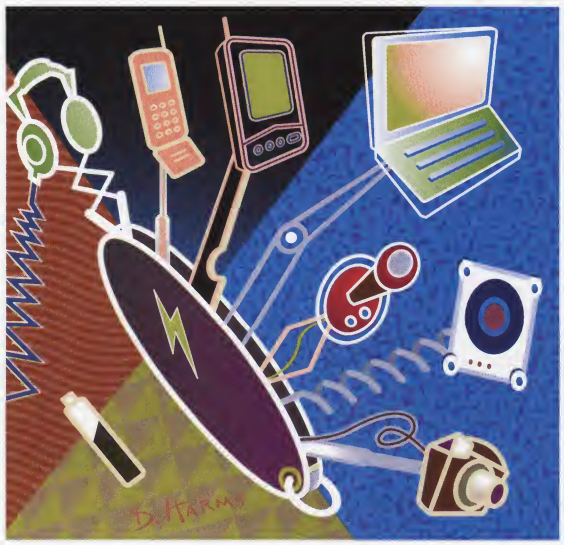


ILLUSTRATION BY DENNIS HARMS

Another important example is the game console. So far, game consoles have been mostly special-purpose devices. This may change, however, now that they've become more powerful. If the TV cable connected to the console provides a high-speed Internet connection as well, many other functions become appealing. The console could become the living-room computer, taking on functions such as playing movies, browsing the Web, and viewing photo albums. Sony has this sort of evolution in mind for its PlayStation2, and Microsoft is creating the X-Box because it can't afford to abdicate the living room to Sony.

All sorts of odd combinations are showing up: cell phones that include MP3 players, cell phones that are also digital cameras, digital cameras that play MP3s and can access the Web, LCD monitors that are also televisions, and microwave ovens and refrigerators with Web terminals integrated into their doors.

Which of these combinations make sense? It depends on an assortment of factors. If one of the combined functions is handicapped, it's not a good choice. If the two functions need different input and output devices, the choice is questionable, but not necessarily wrong.

One important factor is the sharing of expensive resources. Microprocessors have become inexpensive enough that it's often not necessary to share them, but the components surrounding them can be expensive. Displays and storage, in particular, are now the precious resources. Thus, the LCD monitor that's also a television makes sense because it delivers two functions from one expensive panel, but you probably want your TV and computer in different places.

IT DICES, IT SLICES, IT CHOPS

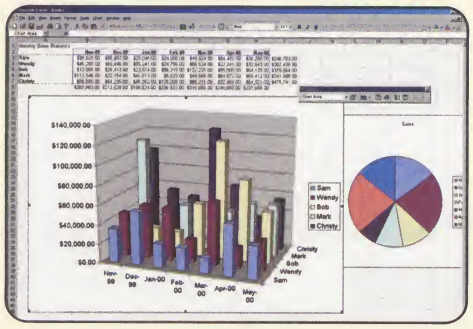
A key factor that will push products toward multiple functions is the universal nature of digital data. In the analog world, a newspaper, a letter, a calendar, a record player, a videotape recorder, a television, a radio, and a photo album were fundamentally different things. In the digital world, everything is bits, and the same device can serve all these functions. Yet there remains merit in focused, limited-function devices, which tend to be less expensive, easier to use, and better optimized for a given function. Designers—and consumers—will continue to struggle to find the optimum balance.

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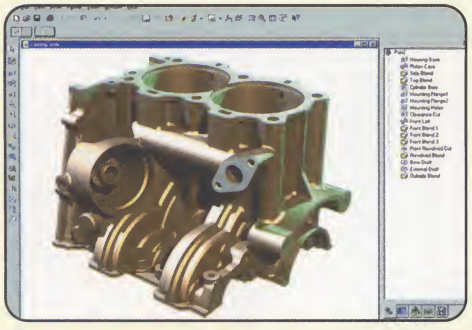
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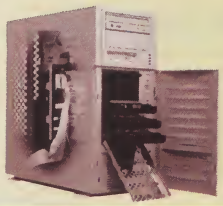
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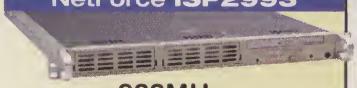
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APPLE COMPUTER'S IMAC HAS NOTHING ON HEWLETT-PACKARD CO.'S new Pavilion 2755C when it comes to looks. This $1,049 PC is HP's response to consumers' increasing demands for aesthetic appeal. Sporting an eye-catching and practical retro-industrial look, the 2755C is a solid value, too.

Shaped like a cereal box turned sideways, the main unit measures a mere 13x4x14.8 inches. Despite its slender chassis, the 2755C has a full-size motherboard with two unoccupied PCI slots. The system lacks room for a second hard drive, so instructions for swapping out the installed hard drive are included in the box.

You can position the system either vertically or horizontally. If you choose the vertical position, you need to attach a supplied stabilizer to the base of the unit. When the unit is vertical, the CD tray uses plastic guards to keep the disc from falling out, so you have to be careful placing the disc into the tray. Otherwise, the vertical orientation works well.



As you first look at the system, you may wonder where HP put the CD-RW and floppy drives. The CD-RW drive hides behind a front-mounted panel. A second panel covers the floppy drive and serial port, and a third panel conceals the jacks for headphone, microphone, and audio-in. Having the serial port and audio jacks in the front, as well as two USB ports integrated into the keyboard (in addition to two USB ports in back), is a real plus if you plan to use your desktop with other devices. Having the panels to cover the ports improves the appearance and keeps everything tidy.

The 2755C's keyboard is larger than most, especially front to back, but both novices and experienced users will appreciate its extras. A sturdy volume dial and a full set of transport buttons control most CD and MP3 programs. Soft, neon-blue backlights, which, surprisingly, aren't distracting, call attention to seven Internet buttons labeled for specific functions, such as connect, entertainment, search, and e-mail. You can program them for any Web sites. Key spacing and tactile response are both quite good.

Other notable features include the pair of Polk Audio-designed speakers and the software bundle. The speakers have excellent fidelity for their small size. Given the presence of the CD-RW drive and software, the speakers nicely complement a package that may be used to record your own CDs. And given the emphasis on aesthetics, they're designed to blend in with the rest of the system.

Though the 2755C doesn't ship with a monitor, HP's mx70 is designed to match the 2755C's style and colors. At $300, it's a somewhat pricey 17-inch monitor, but if looks are important, you'll want it to complete the set.

The software bundle includes Microsoft Works 2000, Outlook Express, Encarta 2000, Microsoft Money 2000, Quicken Basic 2000, Adaptec Easy CD Creator (including DirectCD packet-writing software to make backing up large files painless), MusicMatch Jukebox 5.1, and McAfee VirusScan. Considering the system's low price, that's a good assortment of basic applications.

Though the specifications are impressive for an inexpensive, compact computer—800MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of SDRAM, a 4x/4x/24x HP CD-Writer Plus CD-RW drive, and a 20GB Ultra DMA hard drive—like many other sub-$1,200 desktops, the system uses the graphics capabilities of the built-in Intel 810E chipset. As a result, the 2755C isn't a good choice for leading-edge games. Performance comes in lower than for systems we've seen using the newer Intel 815E chipset, and significantly below those with a decent third-party graphics card. Likewise, everyday application performance scored below average, but this level of performance should still be more than adequate for most users intending to use the machine for word processing, accounting apps, and Web surfing.

With its curved corners, streamlined buttons, and hidden panels, the HP Pavilion 2755C has a look all its own. It somehow manages to combine the visual elements of a 1950s nightclub with a George Jetson video screen. And if you grow tired of its good looks, you can draw comfort from the fact that it didn't cost you any more than an ordinary beige-box computer.

—David English

EDITORS' RATING 7.5

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	9
EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	6
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
VALUE	8

Innovative styling; competitive price; small CPU unit; Ethernet adapter; two empty PCI slots

Subpar performance; no dedicated graphics card; no extra drive bay

SYSTEM: HP Pavilion 2755C
COMPANY:
Hewlett-Packard Co.
Palo Alto, CA; 800-724-6631
www.hp-at-home.com
AS TESTED: 800MHz Pentium III; 128MB PC100 SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 4x/4x/24x CD-RW drive; Intel 810E chipset; integrated Crystal AC97 audio chipset; two-piece Polk Audio speakers; 10/100Mbps Ethernet adapter; Microsoft Works 2000; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $1,049 (no monitor included)

ZDNet Price It!™ 34200
For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

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DESKTOPS

SONY VAIO PCV-RX280DS

A Digital Studio On Your Desktop

YEARS AGO, A MULTIMEDIA PC WAS ANY DESKTOP WITH A SOUND card and speakers. These days, you need a lot more. To qualify, it takes added horsepower, loads of storage space, and fast connections for editing high-resolution audio and video. If you're ready to jump into multimedia production—or just want to see what the fuss is about—check out Sony Electronics' VAIO PCV-RX280DS multimedia desktop PC. It's the top model in the company's Digital Studio line, and it has everything you need in one package, including the editing software.

A production-quality A/V machine needs to be powerful, similar to one that would appeal to a game fan. The $2,199 VAIO has impressive specs, including a 1GHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of PC133 SDRAM, a 60GB hard drive, a 16x DVD-ROM drive, an 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive, and a 4x AGP graphics adapter with an nVidia GeForce2 MX graphics processor. The system's two IEEE 1394 ports (also known as FireWire ports, though Sony refers to them as i.Link interfaces) provide high-speed connections for digital camcorders. And a 10/100BaseT Ethernet port lets you connect to a high-speed network. Even if you're not interested in editing multimedia files, this system would make an excellent desktop for graphics-based applications.



As you might expect, the VAIO performed well on our benchmark tests, though surprisingly not quite as well as some 800MHz Pentium III systems we've tested. On tests measuring performance important to multimedia production, such as our Content Creation Winstone 2001 and 3D WinMark 2000 benchmarks, the VAIO trailed our 800MHz Pentium III Dell reference system. This is probably due to the use of the slower GeForce2 MX chip, rather than the GeForce2 Ultra chip used in the Dell.

You won't mistake this system for a slimline computer. The solidly constructed chassis measures a substantial 14.2x8x14.6 inches (HWD). The DVD and CD-RW drives are readily available at the front of the unit, and the floppy drive is positioned just below those drives and behind a panel. Another front panel hides a 1394 port and a USB port. The back of the chassis includes a full set of connectors, including a second 1394 port, two additional USB ports, both VGA and DVI connectors, and an Ethernet port. We found the system fan to be louder than on most desktops, which could be distracting when editing audio files.

Even with all the extras, the system still has room for expansion. The VAIO has two empty PCI slots and one available 3.5-inch drive bay. The two 1394 ports could be used to perform real-time editing with two separate digital cameras, or if you're not interested in video editing, for two external 1394 hard drives. The 60GB hard drive could hold hundreds or even thousands of audio and video files. And having both DVD-ROM and CD-RW drives would make it easy to create favorite-song CDs.

The system doesn't ship with a monitor, but you can opt for Sony's $999.99 15-inch VAIO PCVA-15XD2, which is designed for the Digital Studio series. This LCD monitor has a DVI interface, which matches the DVI connector on the back of the system. A digitally connected LCD shows you how sharp a Windows desktop can be. The PCVA-15XD2 has a native resolution of 1,024x768 with 16 million colors. It's an excellent match for this desktop, though it does significantly raise the total system price.

The software bundle is ideally suited for someone who wants to get started with multimedia editing. Sony includes limited versions of two well-known programs: Adobe Premiere LE and Sonic Foundry Sound Forge XP. You'll also find Sony's own Smart Capture, which handles 1394 communications between the computer and digital cameras; Media Bar, which manages multimedia files; and DVGate, which lets you edit digital video clips.

Despite being a relatively expensive system, Sony includes only a one-year warranty. Also, the warranty is reduced to 90 days unless you register your purchase. Telephone support is limited to just one year for the hardware and 90 days for the software and operating system.

The Sony VAIO PCV-RX280DS is a top choice for multimedia editing and appropriate for users looking to stay ahead of the technology curve. With its high-end components, leading-edge connectivity options, and room to expand, this system is well-equipped for the future.

—David English

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
VALUE	6

Two IEEE 1394 ports; DVI connector for digital LCD monitor; audio- and video-editing software included; available expansion slots and bays; solidly built

Relatively expensive; loud fan; less-than-stellar benchmark performance

SYSTEM: Sony VAIO PCV-RX280DS
COMPANY: Sony Electronics San Diego, CA 800-476-6972, 858-942-8500
www.sony.com/pc
AS TESTED: 1GHz Pentium III; 128MB PC133 SDRAM; 60GB hard drive; 16x DVD-ROM drive; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; 4x AGP nVidia GeForce2 MX graphics adapter with 32MB SDRAM; software-based sound system; Sony two-piece speaker system; V.90 PCI modem; 10/100Mbps Ethernet card; Windows Me; Microsoft Word; additional software
MFR. EST. PRICE: $2,199 (no monitor included)

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For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

DESKTOPS

TANGENT MEDALLION PRO

A System for Mixing Business and Pleasure

TANGENT COMPUTER OFFERS A MIX OF TALENT WITH ITS MEDALLION Pro. The $1,995 1GHz system shows great overall performance and is reasonably stocked with much of the good stuff we appreciate, but it seems to have a bit of an identity crisis.

Judging by its performance and operating system, you'd think the Medallion Pro was looking for a home in the business world. Our test system arrived with Windows 2000 Professional installed, with correspondingly excellent performance on business apps: The Medallion Pro's 42.6 Business Winstone 2001 score is one of the highest we've seen to date. (Note that our standard testing configuration has 128MB of RAM, while the Medallion Pro had 256MB, which may improve test scores.) It also gets high marks for 2D-graphics and hard drive performance. Credit for the latter goes to an Ultra ATA/100 controller and a 7,200-rpm hard drive.



In fact, the Medallion Pro's relatively poor 3D WinMark 2000 results, combined with an embedded audio system with few, if any, available audio effects, also tends to support the idea that this system is bound for businesses where fun is frowned upon. A spare pair of headphone and microphone jacks, next to the two additional USB ports on the front-left side of the chassis, might be used for an Internet phone, but the system lacks a modem, including only a network interface. The latter should be a business slam-dunk, because the vast majority of business users connect to the Internet over a network.

Yet the DVD-ROM drive, coupled with the 17-inch (16-inch viewable) Optiquest Z70 monitor, would make for good personal-theater viewing. Granted, some business applications, such as training films, could make use of the drive and the CyberLink PowerDVD software. The drive is PhotoCD- and VideoCD-compatible, so viewing business presentations is also a possibility.

We'd even concede that the S-Video output on the eVGA graphics card might be effective for giving presentations—if a large-screen TV was handy, and if you were willing to carry this desktop system around. But that doesn't explain the speakers.

Typically, business systems merit tiny speaker cubes that emphasize sound more than audio. Tangent, on the other hand, packages the Medallion Pro with an Altec Lansing ACS45.2 PowerCube three-piece speaker system. These speakers have some serious kick, though the emphasis is on audio quality, not power. The two satellites each contain a 3-inch full-range driver and only deliver 6 watts of power, and the 6.5-inch subwoofer pumps just 20 watts. But the subwoofer isn't just stuffed into a plastic cabinet—it's surrounded by wood for much better acoustic response. Altec Lansing recommends the ACS45.2 for music, games, and PC entertainment, and the speaker set sounds great—indeed, a bit too good to be a mere business tool.

Entrance to the Medallion Pro's 17.5x7.5x16.5-inch midtower case requires you to remove a hidden screw under its left-side latch/handle. A screwdriver will definitely be handy inside the case, which has plenty of expansion room. Only one of the three front-accessible 5.25-inch bays is filled, and one of the two front-accessible 3.5-inch bays is empty as well. You'll also find a free 3.5-inch bay free on the inside. Five PCI slots await your choice of interface cards.

Along with 24/7 toll-free support, Tangent offers a strong three-year parts and onsite-labor warranty. You may need to call up and wrangle a little with Tangent technical support to get a service technician to come out, however. If you are really uncomfortable swapping out parts, says Tangent, someone will be at your door. Corporate customers purchasing in bulk are eligible for fourth- and fifth-year extended-warranty plans.

If we could figure out exactly where the Medallion Pro fit, we'd rave about it. As things are, we're not sure what to make of it. It clearly has some of the markings of a home-based multimedia system, though it lags in audio and graphics hardware. But the fine speakers and DVD-ROM drive keep us from picturing this solely as a business machine. If its odd mix of features is precisely what you're looking for, we'd recommend the Tangent Medallion Pro. But other systems are better tailored to either corporate or home-theater users.

—Bill O'Brien

EDITORS' RATING 6.7

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	6
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	6
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
VALUE	6

Good three-piece speaker system; Ultra ATA/100 interface and hard drive; front-mounted USB ports

Relatively small-capacity hard drive; confusing mix of features; no modem

SYSTEM: Tangent Medallion Pro
COMPANY: Tangent Computer
Burlingame, CA
800-342-9388, 650-342-9388
www.tangent.com
AS TESTED: 1GHz Pentium III; 256MB PC133 SDRAM; 30.7GB (7,200-rpm) hard drive; 12x DVD-ROM drive; eVGA nVidia GeForce2 MX graphics card with 32MB of SDRAM; 17-inch Optiquest Z70 monitor; integrated sound; Altec Lansing ACS45.2 PowerCube speakers; AOpen AON-325 PCI network card; Windows 2000 Professional
DIRECT PRICE: $1,995

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Canon Pro 90 IS

Digital Camera



Features 3.3 Megapixel Image Sensor, 2.6 Megapixel effective Resolution, Built-In Image Stabilizer, 10x optical zoom, Integrated Flash. Offers you a huge range of focal lengths, from 37 mm (equiv.) to 370 mm (equiv.).

SONY DCR-PC110

DV Camcorder



The DCR-PC110 Mega Handycam additionaly features a special Carl Zeiss T* Lens Coating, video-mail feature, automatic pop-up flash for quality still images and multiple connectivity options like a USB terminal, i.Link (In/out).

Panasonic KX-TG2000B

Cordless Phone System



The KX-TG2000B 2.4GHz multi-handset cordless phone systems combine the advantages of a business-style telephone system with the convenience and mobility of 2.4GHz cordless operation, Call Transfer, Message Transfer, Deliver Message, Auto Message Delete

SONY VPL-CS2

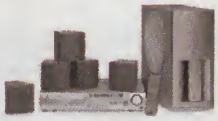
Multimedia Projector



By adopting newly-developed 0.7 inch LCD panels, Sony has produced a new category of LCD projector the "Ultra-Personal". Weighing less than 7 lbs. the VPL-CS2 produces 600 ANSI lumens of brightness at native SVGA resolution. This allows for brilliant images under most any lighting conditions.

SONY DAV-S300

Home Theater In A Box



Making the "home theater in a box" concept a reality, the incredibly affordable DAV-S300 integrates a combination receiver/DVD player with a 6-speaker package and all the speaker wire needed. Easy to install and easy to use.

SONY MZ-R70PC

Portable MiniDisc Player/Recorder



The world's smallest and lightest MD recorder, the ultra-compact MZ-R70PC is almost as small as a playback-only MD Walkman yet it is packed with powerful editing and playback features. Includes PCLink (USB cable, PCLink converter, mini-mini stereo cable) for recording music files from Internet. 40 Seconds Shock Resistant Memory. Up to 17 hours Playback with Sony "AA" Alkaline battery

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Nikon CoolPix 990

Digital Camera



Created for the serious photographer who values Nikon quality and versatility the Coolpix 990 offers the highest digital performance, incredible ease-of-use, state-of-the-art technology, and unrivaled Nikon optical quality. The Coolpix 990 packs an incredible 3.34 megapixels of resolution and a 3x Nikkor zoom lens into a sleek, eye-catching design

SONY DEJ-925

Portable CD Player



The D-EJ925 would be a major contender. It's slim (only 9/16" thick!). It's strong (featuring a die-cast titanium body). And when it comes to battery life, it's got some serious stamina. The D-EJ925 gives you up to 80 hours of playback, using the supplied NiMH rechargeable battery pack and 2 (optional) "AA"s in the supplied external case. Go anywhere and do just about anything — this portable can keep the pace.

SONY DCR-VX2000

3-CCD DV CAMCORDER



The DCR-VX2000, incorporates state-of-the-art CCDs to deliver even higher resolution images, a high-quality 2 ½-inch plasma LCD screen enabling instant playback, and the ability to capture still images either direct to Memory Stick media or from a single frame of video footage. Still images are saved in 640 x 480 (VGA) image size, making them useful as "still video grabs" during filming or for transferring into documents, e-mails or on-screen presentations.

Teraoptix TERAPIN

Audio and Video CD Recorder



With the Terapin CD Audio/Video Recorder you can burn 74 minutes of full motion video with audio onto onto a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc -where it can be played back on any CD or DVD players and CD or DVD-equipped computers. Now you can easily transfer all your videos from a camcorder or VCR onto a CD--with all the benefits

JVC HR-DVS1

Mini DV/S-VHS Dual Deck



A double deck, the HR-DVS1U incorporates a Mini DV VCR and an S-VHS VCR, allowing direct playback of S-VHS or Mini DV tapes Direct dubbing from S-VHS to Mini DV and vice versa, or connect directly to your DV camcorder for DV-to-DV edits

Garmin StreetPilot Color

GPS System



The StreetPilot GPS ColorMap takes up where the StreetPilot leaves off. ColorMap features a *razor-sharp, high-resolution*, 16-color display for easy map reading, offers five times the number of waypoints (points of interest that can be marked with individual names and symbols) and double the number of Tracklog Points. It also includes a cigarette lighter adapter, PC cable and dashboard mount.

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HARDWARE

The Webcam Goes for a Walk

These two new Webcams serve double duty as inexpensive digital still cameras that can be used on or off your desktop.

IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT YOU COULDN'T TOUCH A DIGITAL STILL camera for less than $800. Although the latest 3-megapixel models still command prices approaching $1,000, the current selection of digicams covers a wide range of budgets.

One of the latest low-cost contenders in the digital-camera market comes from an unlikely source: the Webcam, those ball- and box-shaped cameras that sit atop people's monitors for use in consumer-level videoconferencing and various other applications. In addition to their desktop duties, some new Webcams can be liberated from their tethers and used as portable digital cameras for grabbing still images.

Of course, the image quality of still pictures taken with a Webcam doesn't come close to that of even the cheapest megapixel camera. Nor do you get any of the cool features found on most digicams. But you can't beat the price: The average Webcam sells for under $150. Plus, many models come bundled with some useful software applications. If you're looking for a quick and easy way to get images onto your Web site or upload a few snapshots to friends and relatives, a Webcam may be your best bet.



INTEL POCKET PC CAMERA

EDITORS' RATING **5.3**

DESIGN	6	IMAGE QUALITY	3
EASE OF USE	6	PERFORMANCE	5
FEATURES	6	VALUE	6

PROS: Inexpensive; easy to set up and use; fast and simple USB connection; holds lots of pictures
CONS: Compromised image quality; digital-camera mode has fixed focus; animated clips are jerky; basic image-editing software

If you need a Webcam, digital still camera, and imaging software—cheap—Intel Corp.'s $149-list Pocket PC Camera could be the answer.

The camera's maximum resolution is 640x480 (VGA). In our tests, colors were oversaturated, and flesh tones looked orange, though not completely unnatural. In short, these images will suffice for casual use, but not for business.

The Pocket PC Camera also supplies a TWAIN-compatible driver, so you can download stored pictures into other applications. The TWAIN driver is easy to use, but it only lets you download or delete all the images at once—you can't pick and choose. While connected, you can capture still images and motion clips, and you can focus in as close as 2 inches.

Unplug the cable, slip the quarter-pound camera out of its stand, and you're ready to take snapshots. The camera runs on four AAA batteries when not connected. It has 8MB of (nonupgradable) memory—enough for 128 VGA (640x480 pixels) or 200 quarter-VGA (QVGA, or 320x240) images. The video clips it took ran at about 10 frames per second (fps), which looked nothing like the smooth footage from a video camcorder.

Besides the Create & Share bundle, the camera comes with MGI PhotoSuite III, which provides some helpful editing tools, and Microsoft's NetMeeting 3.01 for Web-based videoconferencing.

As long as quality isn't a priority, the Intel Pocket PC Camera will get the job done.

KODAK EZ200

EDITORS' RATING **4.8**

DESIGN	5	IMAGE QUALITY	3
EASE OF USE	6	PERFORMANCE	5
FEATURES	5	VALUE	5

PROS: Low cost; easy to use; easy USB connection; software starts by pressing shutter button
CONS: Limited still-picture quality; jerky animated clips at low resolution; fixed-focus lens for digital-camera use; pictures can't be deleted using computer keyboard

Eastman Kodak Co.'s $129-estimated EZ200 is reminiscent of the old Brownie camera: Its pictures aren't the sharpest, but it's easy to use, versatile, and inexpensive. However, Intel's nearly identical Pocket PC Camera comes with twice the memory for just $20 more.

The camera draws power from the USB connection, but runs on four AAA batteries when disconnected. The EZ200's 4MB of nonupgradable memory is enough for 64 VGA-resolution color pictures, or 128 pictures in QVGA mode.

The camera comes with ArcSoft's PhotoImpression 2000, which provides a range of edit functions, and VideoImpression to combine AVI animation clips into movies. Video clips are rated at up to 25 fps at 160x120 resolution, but ours ran at about 10 to 12 fps. Not professional quality, but good enough for many purposes.

Still images taken on the EZ200 show a shift toward magenta, with oversaturated colors and poor shadow detail. The camera has no flash, and when it's disconnected, you're limited to fixed-focus mode with a minimum focus of about 30 inches. Connected, you can focus in as close as 2 inches.

The EZ200 weighs about a quarter pound with batteries, and its pictures are good enough for sending via e-mail and posting on the Web. Considering the price, you can't ask for much more than that.

—Alfred Poor

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING RATED 1 TO 10	5.3	4.8
PRODUCT	Intel Pocket PC Camera	Kodak EZ200
COMPANY	Intel Corp. Santa Clara, CA 800-628-8686, 408-765-8080 *www.intel.com*	Eastman Kodak Co. Rochester, NY 800-235-6325, 716-724-4000 *www.kodak.com*
PRICE	$149 (list) 34205	$129 (mfr. est.) 34207

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[1]Pricing shown is price available from IBM directly; reseller prices may vary. IBM price does not include tax or shipping and is subject to change without notice. [2]MHz/GHz only measures microprocessor internal clock speed; many factors affect application performance. For mobile Intel Pentium III processors featuring SpeedStep technology, this denotes maximum performance mode; battery optimization mode is approximately 80% of maximum performance mode. [3]GB equals one billion bytes when referring to storage capacity; accessible capacity may be less. [4]CD-RW, DVD-ROM and CD-ROM drives list a variable read rate. CD-RW write and re-write speeds vary and list only the maximum possible. Actual CD-RW, DVD-ROM and CD-ROM speeds will vary and are often less than the maximum possible. The read and write results of the CD-RW drive depend on the quality and characteristics of the CD-R and CD-RW media used. Poor results may be obtained with some media suppliers. [5]Designed to be capable of receiving at up to 56Kbps with compatible phone line and server equipment, and transmitting at up to 31.2Kbps. Public networks currently limit maximum download speeds to about 53Kbps. Actual speeds depend on many factors and are often less than the maximum possible. [6]Some software may differ from its retail version (if available), and may not include user manuals or all program functionality. For non-IBM software, applicable third-party licenses may apply. Warranty, service and support for non-IBM products, if any, are provided by third parties, not IBM. IBM makes no representations or warranties regarding non-IBM products. [7]Results based on BAPCo's (Business Applications Performance Corporation) SYSmark benchmark test. Battery life and recharge times will vary based on many factors including screen brightness, applications, features, battery conditioning, power management and other customer preferences. [8]Includes battery and optional travel bezel instead of standard optical drive in Ultrabay 2000, if applicable; weight may vary due to vendor components, manufacturing process and options. [9]For terms and conditions or copies of IBM's Statement of Limited Warranty, call 1 800 772-2227 in the US and in Canada call 1 800 426-2255. Telephone support may be subject to additional charges. Warranty does not include ThinkPad battery, which is covered by a separate 1-year

IBM ThinkPad A21e



IBM ThinkPad T21

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(Part #02K8667) $149[1] or $5/month[10]

ThinkPad Dock
(Part #263110U) $499[1] or $18/month[10]

ThinkPad Easy Roller Carrying Case
(Part #09N3959) $149.99[1] or $5/month[10]

IBM 1GB Microdrive
(Part #07N5574) $449[1] or $16/month[10]

IBM ThinkPad T21

Performance and portability

Mobile Intel Pentium® III processor 750MHz featuring Intel SpeedStep™ technology
13.3" XGA TFT display
128MB SDRAM
10GB removable HDD
8MB Savage IX8+ graphics
Ultrabay 2000 24X-10X CD-ROM
Mini PCI 56K V.90 modem
Windows 98 Second Edition
Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition
Li-Ion 3.7-hour battery
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HARDWARE

HERCULES GAME THEATER XP

A Sound Card and Rack in a Pack

ZD Net BEST BUY

NOW THAT PCs SERVE AS GAME PLATFORMS, MOVIE theaters, and home stereos, good audio hardware is a must. You won't find a better solution than the $149.99 Hercules Game Theater XP, which combines a sound card with a feature-packed rack.

As a PCI sound card, the Game Theater offers amenities for musicians and gamers alike: digital signal processing (supporting up to six speakers); 18-bit analog-to-digital conversion and 20-bit digital-to-analog conversion; and support for DirectSound 3D, EAX 2.0, and A3D 1.0. You get both true Dolby Digital surround sound and all the special audio effects in games.

The Game Theater has just two connectors on its backplate: an auxiliary line-in jack and a port that links the card to the rack. On the front of the cracker-box-size rack are 1/4-inch headphone and microphone inputs (a 1/8-inch adapter is included), a pair of RCA line-in jacks, a joystick port, and two USB ports.



In back, you'll find two additional USB ports, plus 1/8-inch *and* dual RCA line-out jacks for main and surround speakers. There are separate RCA jacks for a subwoofer and a center speaker. Musicians will laud the MIDI-in and -out connectors, as well as the digital S/PDIF inputs and outputs (coaxial and optical). The Game Theater makes connecting almost any audio device both possible and convenient.

Though the manual covers installation and driver setup, it offers no hardware description or explanation of driver settings. Nothing about the Game Theater's operation is terribly complicated, but novices won't find much help along the way. Hercules bundles worthwhile software, including a pair of MP3 players, some music-mixing tools, a 3D-sound-positioning utility, and a DVD player.

In our testing with music, movies, and games, the Game Theater performed splendidly. One complaint: The volume dials were difficult to turn. Nonetheless, if you take audio seriously, the Hercules Game Theater XP makes an excellent addition to any PC. —*Rick Broida*

EDITORS' RATING 9.0

RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	9
SOUND QUALITY	9
VALUE	9

Sound card supports most major standards; rack doubles as USB hub; convenient access to frequently used ports; large bundle of good software; affordable

Stiff volume dials; incomplete instruction manual

PRODUCT: Hercules Game Theater XP
COMPANY: Hercules
Montreal, QC, Canada
877-484-5536, 514-279-9960
www.hercules.com
LIST PRICE: $149.99

ZD Net Price It!™ 34206

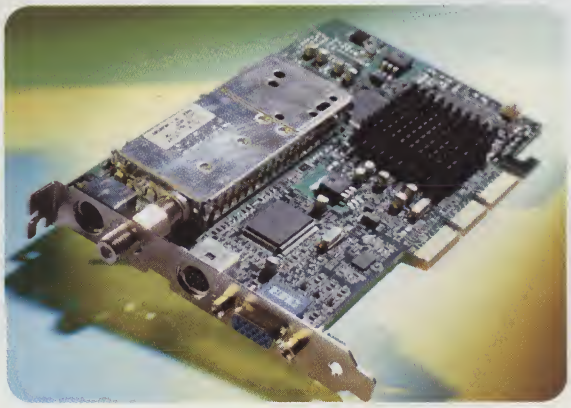
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MATROX MARVEL G450 ETV

Control the Airwaves From Your PC

LET'S GET THE BAD NEWS OUT OF THE WAY FIRST: The Matrox Marvel G450 eTV video card is poor at 3D. If you're looking to play Quake III Arena, don't even consider it. Instead, the eTV is part of a new wave of TV-tuner graphics cards designed with home-theater connoisseurs in mind, letting them use their PCs for time shifting.

Time-shifting technology lets you pause a live TV show. Click the Pause button on the simulated remote, and the show will record onto the hard drive. When you return, you can replay from where you left off. Recording and time shifting TV programs lie at the heart of personal digital recorders such as TiVo, and Matrox sees an eTV-stocked PC as a potential player in this market.



For conventional PC graphics acceleration, the eTV's 2D performance is strong, and the card supports resolutions as high as 2,048x1,536 at a 32-bit color depth. The 4x AGP board also packs in 32MB of DDR memory, a TV tuner, a video-capture unit, a VCR-like recorder, and support for multiple displays. The eTV performed well both on Windows 2000 and Windows 98 Second Edition systems in our tests.

The eTV features Matrox's highly regarded DualHead technology, although you can use only a TV set as the secondary display. The card offers S-Video and composite input and output jacks, with the necessary cables provided. The eTV supports AVI, MPEG-1, and MPEG-2 recording and playback, and comes with Ulead's VideoStudio 4.0 to let you edit videos.

As a package, the Matrox Marvel G450 eTV works well, and we recommend it as an excellent all-purpose product. But its major competitor, ATI's 32MB All-In-Wonder Radeon, parries Matrox's excellent DualHead technology with much superior 3D support. The two stack up very well against each other, so consider them both in your purchase decision. —*Neil Randall*

EDITORS' RATING 6.6

RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	8
SETUP AND CONTROLS	7
2D PERFORMANCE	7
3D PERFORMANCE	4
VALUE	7

Excellent time-shifting controls; strong video-recording and -playback features; good video-capture and -editing tools; solid Windows 2000 support

Weak 3D performance; secondary display restricted to TV set; picture-in-picture runs only on primary display

PRODUCT: Matrox Marvel G450 eTV
COMPANY: Matrox Graphics
Dorval, QC, Canada
800-361-1408, 514-822-6300
www.matrox.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $265

ZD Net Price It!™ 34210

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HARDWARE

RICOH MEDIAMASTER MP9120A COMBO DRIVE

Great Hardware, Ordinary Software

THE RICOH MEDIAMASTER MP9120A COMBO DRIVE hardware almost has it all: the fastest CD-write and -rewrite speeds currently available, anti-buffer-underrun technology, and 8x DVD speed. The rest of the $299 bundle, however, doesn't measure up.

In performance tests, write speed was what you would expect from a 12x writer. On our 800MHz Pentium III test system, the MP9120A took 6 minutes and 42 seconds to create a full CD-R from hard drive data. The JustLink underrun-prevention feature made it possible to write at 12x even when the source drive couldn't supply data that fast.

As a rewriter, this drive copied 301MB of data to a CD-RW disc in just 4 minutes and 13 seconds. The drive also did very well in our tests as a CD/DVD reader, achieving a data-transfer rate of 2.62MB/sec (as fast as a slow hard drive).



Ricoh provides the CD-creation software PrimoCD Plus from Prassi. It's simpler to use than Adaptec's Easy CD Creator, but it has a few quirks. It won't copy individual audio-CD tracks to a compilation CD, for example. To include these tracks, you first must convert them to MP3 or WAV files using your own software—a serious drawback.

Ricoh includes InterVideo's WinDVD 2000 software for playing DVD movies. Playback was smooth, even on a 400MHz Celeron system.

For a high-end drive, the Ricoh MP9120A is short on extras, despite its superior hardware. Other than a four-page quick-start guide, the documentation is on CD-ROM. This drive doesn't include software for backup, CD labeling, digital-audio extraction, or audio editing. And while it functions as both a high-end CD-RW drive and a DVD reader, it is actually more expensive than buying two drives separately. So the question is: Do you really need a combination drive? If not, you'd be better off buying a high-performance CD-RW drive like the Ricoh MP7120A, plus a separate DVD reader.

—Sheldon Leemon

EDITORS' RATING 7.8
RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	7
INSTALLATION	8
PERFORMANCE	9
VALUE	7

Highest write and rewrite speeds available; reads a broad array of discs; buffer-underrun prevention; fast CD reader

Expensive; bare-bones software; doesn't make labels or jewel-case inserts

PRODUCT: Ricoh MediaMaster MP9120A Combo Drive
COMPANY: Ricoh DMS-C Tustin, CA; 877-742-6479
www.ricohdms.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $299

ZDNet Price It! 34213
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SAMSUNG ML-4600

A Step Up From Disposable

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA'S ML-4600 LASER printer has an estimated selling price of $299—about $100 more than the company's "disposably priced" ML-4500. The extra $100 buys 4MB of memory (instead of 2MB), expandable to 68MB using conventional SIMMs. It also adds USB support, a faster processor, and "1,200-dpi-class" resolution (using smoothing algorithms, not an actual 1,200-dpi engine). The ML-4600 looks identical to the ML-4500, but has a printer driver that offers watermarking, poster printing, n-up printing, and more.

We liked the main input bin's generous 150-sheet capacity. A second feeder accommodates single sheets of thicker stock, envelopes, or labels.

Unfortunately, the basic setup poster doesn't cover installing the printer on a USB port. Instead, this important information is buried in the appendix of the CD-ROM-based manual.



Our timed tests, using a USB connection to a 266MHz Pentium II PC, showed the ML-4600 to be a competent performer. It took just over 20 seconds to turn out the first page of a 10-page Word document at both 600-dpi and 1,200-dpi-class resolutions. Including the first page in the timing yielded a print speed of 6.78 pages per minute (ppm). The startup delay aside, the 8-ppm-rated ML-4600 delivered a print speed of about 7.9 ppm.

The ML-4600's text output was sharp and dark—good for a machine in this class. Characters were legible down to 3-point type. Generally, the printer produced much better tonal gradation and shadow detail in 1,200-dpi-class mode than it did using the 600-dpi setting. This allowed the ML-4600 to do an excellent job of printing our test photographs.

Overall, the Samsung ML-4600's performance and output are solid, although the documentation could be better. You can get great-looking output from this printer, but it takes some trial-and-error tweaking.

—Matthew Klare

EDITORS' RATING 6.6
RATED 1 TO 10

FEATURES	6
OUTPUT QUALITY	7
PAPER HANDLING	7
PERFORMANCE	6
VALUE	7

Many driver features; RAM expandable to 68MB with regular SIMMs; Reprint Page/Kill Print Job button

Input slots open to the environment; no paper manual; no duplexing or booklet making; driver settings not well-documented

PRODUCT: Samsung ML-4600
COMPANY: Samsung Electronics America Rancho Dominguez, CA 888-887-8536
www.samsungusa.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $299

ZDNet Price It! 34212
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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 82

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Picking a PC That Works (or Plays) for You

To choose the right PC, get a clear idea of the tasks you'll need the PC to perform, and the features necessary to successfully complete them. (For a comprehensive selection of PC reviews, go to ***www.zdnet.com/products/filter/guide/0,7267,150013,00.html***.)

Family

The ideal family system will have enough power and the right features to fill your needs for up to two years—without including a budget-busting price tag. A typical system in this category will include a 450MHz to 667MHz Pentium III, 533MHz to 600MHz Celeron, or 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor; 64MB SDRAM; a 10GB hard drive; and a 17-inch monitor. A family PC should also include the right features for Internet connectivity (a 56K V.90 modem, a 10/100Mbps Ethernet PCI adapter, or a DSL modem for high-speed access) and multimedia (a good graphics card with 16MB memory, a DVD-ROM drive, a Sound Blaster-compatible sound card, a speaker system, and perhaps a CD-RW drive for creating your own CDs). You'll pay anywhere from $1,000 to $2,000 for a desktop system in this category.

Student

The majority of students will use their PCs for word processing, e-mail, and Web browsing. For these activities, a budget PC is sufficient. A budget PC typically includes a 466MHz to 600MHz Celeron processor or 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor, 64MB RAM, a 4.3GB to 10GB hard drive, and a 15- or 17-inch monitor. These systems start at around $800. But if you'll also use the PC for other activities such as creating Web pages, downloading and listening to MP3 files, or making your own CDs, you'll need to invest in a more powerful and feature-complete system similar to the ones described for Family or even Gaming and Multimedia. The Apple iMac, which starts at about $799, is also a popular choice for students because of its space-saving, portable design. Check with the school to see if you'll need 10/100Mbps Ethernet (either integrated on a PCI card, or via a USB adapter) for connecting to the campus network.

Gaming and Multimedia

Because of their 3D graphics and sound, computer games really test the limits of desktop PCs. The same is true for digital photography, digital audio, and video editing—all of which are rapidly becoming popular desktop activities. For these tasks, you'll want the fastest, most capable PC you can lay your hands on. Systems in this class have everything: the fastest Pentium III or Athlon processors (up to 1GHz), 128MB to 512MB of system memory, hard drives up to 40GB, and 19-inch monitors. Another critical feature is a high-end graphics board with 64MB of double data rate (DDR) memory. Graphics boards based on nVidia's GeForce 256 and GeForce2 GTS chip set are especially popular in this category. For all this power, you can expect to fork over anywhere from $2,500 to $3,500.

Small Business

The typical small-business-oriented desktop PC looks a lot like a family PC, but without as much emphasis on multimedia features. A typical configuration would include a 450MHz to 667MHz Pentium III processor, 533MHz to 600MHz Celeron processor, or 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor; 64MB to 128MB RAM; and a 17- or 19-inch monitor. Most small-business users will also want a 10/100Mbps Ethernet PCI card or a DSL modem for high-speed Internet access. Expect to pay about $1,200 to $2,000 for a system in this class. For certain small-business needs, especially graphic design, an Apple iMac (350MHz or 400MHz PowerPC) or even an entry-level Power Mac G4 (400MHz PowerPC G4) may also be an attractive option.

Multimedia Pro

In this category, the fastest possible processor is not as critical as loads of memory, an extremely fast, large hard drive, an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface for transferring video, and a roomy display. All this technology can make a desktop PC for gamers and enthusiasts look like a bargain. Prices typically start around $3,500, and the sky's the limit. A fully loaded Apple PowerPC G4 with a 19.8-inch diagonal display, for instance, can approach $7,000.

Budget Buyer

Basic features include a 466MHz to 600MHz Celeron processor, 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor, or AMD K6-2 processor; 32MB to 64MB memory (we don't recommend anything less than 64MB); and a 4.3GB to 6GB hard drive. Most budget systems come with Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition—Windows 2000 isn't an option in this price range—and have limited warranties. Don't expect to find DVD-ROM or CD-RW drives as standard equipment on budget systems. These systems range in price from $800 to $1,300. ▼



Buying notebooks

Pinpointing the Perfect Portable

To choose the right notebook PC, get a clear idea of the tasks you'll need the laptop to perform and the features necessary to successfully complete them. The specs break down pretty well according to categories such as family, student, or gaming, so we used such categories to help you focus your search. (For a comprehensive selection of notebook reviews, go to ***www.zdnet.com/products/filter/guide/0,7267,1500115,00.html.***)

Family

If you're interested in replacing your home desktop with a notebook PC, you'll want a big, bright display, a comfortable keyboard, enough processing power to handle computer games (a lot), and plenty of storage for home pictures and MP3s. A typical system in this category will include a Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, a 14-inch TFT (active-matrix) display, a 56Kbps modem, an Ethernet adapter, and a DVD-ROM drive. You'll pay $2,000 or more for such a desktop-replacement system.

Student

The best choice for most students is a value notebook ($1,000 to $1,800), suitable for word processing, e-mail, and Web browsing. A value notebook typically includes a Celeron or AMD K6-2+ processor, 32MB or 64MB of RAM, a 4GB hard drive, a 56Kbps modem, and a CD-ROM drive. (Go for 64MB of RAM if at all *possible.*) Also appealing to students might be the Mac OS-based Apple iBook, with a 300MHz or 366MHz PowerPC G3 processor, 64MB of RAM, a 6GB hard drive, a 56Kbps modem, and a CD-ROM drive. Check with your school to see if you'll also need an Ethernet adapter for connecting to the campus network.

Mainstream

Most users rely on their notebook PCs for word processing, spreadsheets, e-mail, and Web browsing. For these tasks, a mainstream notebook PC more than fits the bill. A mainstream notebook generally has midrange components: a Celeron or Pentium III processor, 32MB to 96MB RAM, a 4GB hard drive, a 56Kbps modem, a TFT display, and either a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive. Mainstream notebooks tend to be larger and heavier than corporate notebooks and can have either fixed or swappable drives. Expect to pay between $1,500 to $2,000 for a laptop in this class.

Gaming and Multimedia

Fun and games require a serious notebook PC. Graphics-intensive computer games, digital audio files, and desktop video all put a major drain on system resources. For these applications, you'll need a desktop-replacement system, which should include a Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, a 14-inch TFT display, 8MB of graphics memory, and a DVD-ROM drive. If you plan on working with digital video, you'll also need an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface, only available on a handful of notebook PCs. The Apple PowerBook, with its 500MHz PowerPC G3 processor and twin FireWire interfaces, should be on your short list. High-end multimedia notebooks like these run from $3,000 to $5,000.

Small Business

For a small-business user, the notebook PC is an extension of the office. That's why these users generally buy the most PC they can afford—either a thin-and-light unit for frequent travel (see the "Road Warrior" section) or a full-featured desktop-replacement system. Desktop-replacement notebooks in this class have everything: a Pentium III SpeedStep processor, 128MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, a 56Kbps modem, an Ethernet adapter, a 14-inch TFT display, and a DVD-ROM drive. These systems might also have swappable drive bays and optional port replicators to expand functionality. You'll pay anywhere from $2,000 to $4,000 or more for a notebook in this category, depending upon your power requirements.



Road Warrior

The most popular choice for traveling executives is a thin and light notebook (in addition to their desktop PCs). These systems can be a mere inch thick and weigh from 3 to 6 pounds. They incorporate many of the high-end features of a desktop-replacement system, including a fast Celeron or Pentium III processor, 64MB to 128MB RAM, a 6GB hard drive, a 12- to 14-inch TFT display, a 56Kbps modem, and a DVD-ROM drive. Users willing to forgo some of these features for an even smaller, lighter package should check out mini-notebooks, weighing 4 pounds or less, with 10.4- to 12-inch displays and costing $2,000 to $3,000.

Corporate

Corporations tend to standardize on a particular notebook maker and product line, but depending on their work habits, different employees may choose anything from a mini-notebook all the way up to a desktop-replacement system. That said, some features distinguish corporate notebooks. They generally include a Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM, a 6GB hard drive, a 12- to 14-inch TFT display, a 56Kbps modem, an Ethernet adapter, and a CD-ROM drive. These systems can cost anywhere from $2,000 to $3,000.

Budget Buyer

The budget buyer has to cut some corners to get an affordable notebook, and prices typically start around $900. Such systems include a slower Celeron or AMD K6-2+ processor, 32MB of RAM, a 4GB hard drive, a 56Kbps modem, a smaller, passive-matrix display, a less efficient nickel metal-hydride battery, and a CD-ROM drive. These systems are generally bigger and heavier than more expensive notebook PCs. ▼

MOBILE

ACER TRAVELMATE 351TEV

A Traveling Machine Built for the Future

beta

BUILT FOR NOW AND READY FOR TOMORROW—ACER AMERICA CORP.'S ultraportable TravelMate 351TEV certainly fits that description. We recently tested an engineering sample of this $2,299 thin-and-light notebook, and even though its benchmark performance was lackluster, its overall design and features more than make up for this shortcoming.

As an ultraportable notebook, the TravelMate hits all the right points. It's lightweight, weighing just over 4 pounds, and it's svelte, measuring less than an inch thick. To save weight and thickness, it packs only one drive into the case—a 10GB hard drive—and accommodates DVD and floppy drives in a single external combo unit (which, by the way, is fairly heavy and clumsy). So far, pretty textbook. But there's much more here that will please corporate technology buyers.



For example, the TravelMate makes data security a top priority, featuring a dedicated smart-card slot located just above the single Type II PC Card slot. Used with PlatinumSecure software preloaded on the notebook's hard drive, the included smart card serves as a hardware key with additional password protection, allowing only an approved user to access data.

PlatinumSecure lets you tailor security to fit your needs. You can, for example, password-protect certain folders, or restrict access to the entire hard drive. Moreover, IT pros can configure a system to accept up to five separate users, each using a different hardware key.

Built-in smart-card support may be cutting-edge, but Acer's support for emerging Bluetooth technology trumps even that. The Bluetooth spec allows users to set up Personal Area Networks (PANs), in which various electronic devices, from notebooks to set-top boxes, can communicate wirelessly.

Acer offers a $199 Bluetooth wireless upgrade for notebooks in the TravelMate 350 series, all of which feature built-in support for the technology. If you already own a TravelMate 350, simply send your unit back to the company, which replaces the networking module with a new module featuring a Bluetooth communication device.

Unfortunately, the TravelMate and its 700MHz Pentium III processor didn't live up to expectations on many of our benchmark tests. Disk, graphics, and Winstone scores were all disappointing. Surprisingly, though, 3D performance was strong, and our test version of Quake III clipped along with nary a hiccup, even though frame rates hovered only around 12.5 frames per second. Battery life was impressive for this class of machine—almost 3 hours on a single charge.

Acer bundles some great software, including ViaVoice (with an external microphone), as well as productivity and troubleshooting apps. We were less enthused with the warranty options: Upgrading the standard one-year parts-and-labor plan to three years costs $200, and Acer offers no onsite-service option at all.

From a usability standpoint, the TravelMate hits most of the time and misses only occasionally. Its bright 13.3-inch active-matrix LCD provides good off-axis viewing. The full-size keyboard is relatively comfortable, but it's a bit stiff to the touch and doesn't provide a satisfying click when the keys are depressed. Still, key layout is ideal, with the full-size Backspace key located at the very end of its row, where fast-typing fingers expect it to be.

We liked the programmable Synaptics touch pad, which features tap zones and highly customizable scrolling options, but the two actuation buttons are stiff and poorly shaped. A programmable center-scrolling button adds a nice touch, but it's stiff, too.

The TravelMate's three programmable one-touch buttons above the keyboard are well-implemented. They aren't specifically labeled, and they accommodate any kind of file. Best of all, they don't require you to go online to reprogram them.

Like other ultraportables, the TravelMate eschews serial and parallel ports, featuring instead dual USB ports and an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port for streaming video, graphics, and other bandwidth-hungry media. Standard modem, Ethernet, PS/2, and monitor ports, as well as an expansion slot for the $150 Universal Dock port replicator, round out the connectivity options. Unfortunately, the TravelMate's external combo drive can't be hot-connected to the dedicated port on the right side. That's a surprising omission in this otherwise well-thought-out notebook.

—Asa Somers

EDITORS' RATING 6.7

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	5
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	5
VALUE	7

👍 Smart-card port and security software; IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port; Bluetooth upgradability; strong battery life

👎 Slow; touch-pad buttons poorly designed; external drive is not hot-connectable

SYSTEM:
Acer TravelMate 351TEV
COMPANY:
Acer America Corp.
San Jose, CA
800-551-2237, 408-432-6200
www.acer.com
AS TESTED: 700MHz Pentium III; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM; 10GB hard drive; 8x DVD-ROM drive; Trident CyberBlade Ai1 AGP graphics chip with 8MB DRAM; 13.3-inch TFT display; Sound Blaster-compatible sound with single speaker; integrated V.90 modem; integrated 10/100Mbps networking; Microsoft Works Suite 2000; additional software
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MOBILE

INNOGEAR MINIJAM

Sweet Sound, Some Shortcomings

LESS IS CERTAINLY MORE WHEN IT COMES TO portable electronics, and an MP3-player Springboard module for your Handspring Visor makes for one less item to carry. InnoGear's MiniJam snap-on MP3 module is small, but it's a digital-audio lightweight.

The MiniJam's sound quality is good, matching that of its main competitor, the SoundsGood AudioPlayer. The MiniJam's advantage is expandability: It has two MultiMediaCard (MMC) slots that can host up to 128MB of storage space (about 2 hours of music). The module itself also didn't seriously affect the Visor's battery life.

What's not to like? Plenty, unfortunately. Downloading music from your hard drive is excruciatingly slow, as is formatting an MMC card—slow enough to render the unit nearly unusable. InnoGear recognizes the problem and plans to ship a $39 USB MiniJam "SpeedLoader." But unless it downloads three times faster and is free, it's an inadequate compromise—the additional $39 makes the price too high.



Other MiniJam features are equally vexing. When the top-mounted buttons go into sleep mode, they stop responding; you have to remove the module from your Visor and go through setup again. Worse, playback doesn't stop when the Visor's low-battery alert pops up—an invitation to disaster.

There's no way to download files in the proper track order because the software can't open MPU playlists. You can't drag and drop files, either. You have to specify which MMC slot to send files to, and if not enough space is available on one card, the MiniJam doesn't automatically overflow the data to the other. The software won't even tell you how many files will fit, so you can't plan optimal downloads. WMA support is in the works, but no launch date has been set.

The two MMC slots provide the MiniJam's only real advantage over the SoundsGood AudioPlayer—admittedly a nontrivial advantage. But you'll have to accept the unit's many shortcomings as well.

—Lori Grunin

EDITORS' RATING 6.5

RATED 1 TO 10

COMPATIBILITY	6
DESIGN	6
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	5
SOUND QUALITY	7
VALUE	7

Two media slots; user-customizable buttons

Slow music downloads and card formatting; clunky interface; no WMA support

PRODUCT: InnoGear MiniJam
COMPANY: InnoGear
Morgan Hill, CA
877-711-6778, 408-776-6778
www.innogear.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: $259 (64MB), $199 (32MB)

ZDNet Price It!™ 34219

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MOTOROLA TIMEPORT P8767

This Silver Cell Dials With Style

THE MOTOROLA TIMEPORT P8767 IS SURE TO turn faces green with phone envy. It will definitely attract attention, thanks to its sophisticated clam-shell design and vibrant three-color display. But this handset isn't all about good looks. The Timeport is also a potent mobile tool.

The first thing you'll notice is its compact size. At just 4.6 ounces, the Timeport easily slides into even the tightest shirt pocket. Flipping open the silver bezel reveals the Organic Electro-Luminescent color screen, the phone's true hidden gem. Letters practically leap out at you in hues of red, blue, and green. Best of all, characters are just as visible in bright sunlight as they are in total darkness.



The new screen is no power hog, either. The claimed standby time is a lengthy 160 hours, with an equally robust expected talk time of 3.5 hours using its standard lithium-ion battery.

The phone's keyboard is small, and its average-size buttons are closely packed together, making one-handed operation tricky. The three familiar side-mounted Smart buttons help to make up for this. Along with features like voice and text messaging, you'll find a nicely laid-out address book that lets you keep track of up to 99 entries. Four numbers can be stored in each entry with easy-to-spot icons for quick identification, and a simple mini-browser provides pared-down Web content through Phone.com's WAP service. To make certain you're always reachable, the Timeport can operate on two types of digital CDMA networks (1,900MHz and 800MHz), plus roam in areas where only old-style (800MHz) analog carriers exist.

The Timeport P8767 is by no means cheap—it'll put you back about $300 if bought through a service provider. But for those who want to make a splash wherever they go, not many phones possess as much sex appeal.

—Brian Bennett

EDITORS' RATING 6.8

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	8
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	7
PERFORMANCE	6
VALUE	6

Brilliant color screen; long battery life; compact design; one-finger navigation

Tiny keyboard; expensive

PRODUCT: Motorola Timeport P8767
COMPANY: Motorola
Schaumburg, IL; 800-331-6456
www.motorola.com
MFR. EST. PRICE: About $300, depending on carrier

ZDNet Price It!™ 34220

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 88

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MOBILE

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Standardized and Solid For the Business Buyer

SOMETIMES IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING THE FASTEST OR LIGHTEST, OR packing the most cutting-edge techno-gimmicks. NEC Computers bills its Versa SXi as an ideal notebook for corporate buyers looking to standardize on a single platform. Not very exciting, but your average IT department looks for consistency, not thrills.

The $4,099 Versa SXi doesn't bring anything new to notebooks, but it does do a fine job of providing all the necessities that business users—and the folks who support them—seek. It's speedy and relatively light at 6.6 pounds, and offers a fair number of configuration options. NEC's selling point is that an above-average number of components are interchangeable throughout the Versa series. In particular, NEC vaunts that hard drive and memory components can be swapped among different notebooks in the series. That's not a big deal, as you can often swap these components between notebooks of different brands. More significant is the VersaBay III, NEC's standardized drive bay, which lets you use the same storage devices in the Versa SXi and LXi and, NEC claims, future designs as well. This standardization isn't unique to NEC, but it will be attractive to support departments.



The VersaBay comes equipped with a floppy drive and either a 24x CD-ROM, a 24x read/4x write CD-RW, or a 6x DVD-ROM. You can also choose an LS-120 100MB SuperDisk drive in place of the standard floppy. All these drives are hot-swappable. You can also add a warm-swappable (swappable with the computer suspended) 6GB or 18GB second hard drive. Our review unit included the CD-RW drive, which was bundled with Adaptec's excellent Easy CD Creator software, as well as a small drive-carrying case. Because there's only one bay, you can't use the floppy and CD drives together in the default configuration, but you can get an optional USB kit for the floppy that allows you to connect it externally.

Though the Versa SXi isn't groundbreaking, it does perform well in most areas. At its heart is an Intel Pentium III mobile processor running at 750MHz, dropping to 600MHz when the SpeedStep power-saving feature is activated. Combined with 128MB of RAM, this gives plenty of processing power for most business applications. Unfortunately the 12GB hard drive in our test unit was sluggish, something to consider if you'll be running disk-intensive database applications.

The 14.1-inch LCD screen is bright and crisp, offering a maximum 1,024x768 resolution and smoothly scaling up lower resolutions, which lets you run low-res legacy applications without having to deal with jagged text or a letterboxed screen. Graphics come from an ATI Rage Mobility-M1 chip, which is an excellent performer in 2D, but lackluster in 3D. Audio volume from the dual speakers isn't bad, but the sound has a hollow quality.

The keyboard has a firm feel and a well-placed touch pad, but the page-movement keys are somewhat awkwardly arrayed along the right edge. The touch-pad buttons have ridges, making them easy to locate while touch-typing. The wrist rest is comfortably large, and the surrounding silver-and-black case is stylish for a business notebook.

All the requisite ports are here, although we'd like to have seen a second USB port. The 56Kbps modem and 10/100Mbps Ethernet port are mounted on a Mini PCI card, so you can configure the notebook with one, both, or neither, depending on your needs. The unit has no S-Video or composite outputs, so you'll need to connect to a VGA-compatible video device for presentations.

The software bundle is slim: McAfee VirusScan, Netscape Communicator 4.6, PowerQuest's PartitionMagic Special Edition, and Adobe Acrobat Reader. These applications are shipped on an included CD and are not preinstalled, giving businesses the opportunity to install only approved apps.

NEC's warranty covers parts and labor for three years, and the company also throws in a year of UltraCare Preferred Service, which includes such benefits as door-to-door pickup and return of your damaged Versa, and expedited repair service. Additional years of the UltraCare service plan are available.

If you're looking for a machine for personal use, notebooks that are more interesting and versatile are available for less money. But in a multiple-notebook business environment where standardized components are a plus—and the corporate IT budget is flush—the Versa SXi makes a lot of sense.

—Denny Atkin

EDITORS' RATING 6.3

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	6
PERFORMANCE	5
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
VALUE	5

Light; standardized drive bay; fast CPU; slim, stylish casing

Costly; slow hard drive; poor 3D performance; tinny speakers

SYSTEM: NEC Versa SXi
COMPANY: NEC Computers
Sacramento, CA
888-632-8701, 916-388-0101
www.nec-computers.com
AS TESTED: 750MHz Pentium III; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 14.1-inch XGA active-matrix LCD; 4x variable-speed CD-RW; ATI Rage Mobility-M1 graphics controller with 8MB VRAM; ESS Maestro-2E audio chip; twin integrated speakers; integrated microphone; internal V.90 modem and Ethernet; touch pad; Windows 2000; additional software
LIST PRICE: $4,099

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PROSTAR

MOBILE

SCEPTRE SOUNDX 69502

Blistering Multimedia, Lukewarm Price

IT'S DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN. THE SOUNDX 69502 DESKTOP-REPLACEMENT notebook from Sceptre Technologies recently arrived in our labs, and it looked just like a Dell Inspiron 5000e we'd seen only weeks before. Indeed, these two systems *are* similar, both manufactured by Taiwan-based Compal, and both featuring large, high-resolution LCD panels. Both came in nearly identical matte-black cases weighing around 7.5 pounds, and both also demonstrated blazing speed on our benchmark tests. Though the $2,399 Soundx edges out the Dell as a multimedia powerhouse and costs a bit less, it lacks some important extras.

Despite its staid appearance, our evaluation unit revealed its multimedia pedigree with a gorgeous 15-inch LCD panel. The display delivered uniform color, generous off-angle visibility, and incredible-looking full-motion DVD video. Thanks to the Rage Mobility 128 graphics subsystem and 16MB of dedicated video RAM under the hood, the Soundx doubles as a great system for gamers, powering through our Quake III demo at an intense 48.3 frames per second. No wonder this system smoked the competition on our Business Graphics WinMark 99 test, and came in a close second to the Inspiron in 3D performance.



The trend these days is to endow such wide LCD panels with high resolutions—in this case, a maximum native resolution of 1,400x1,050 pixels (SXGA+). This is a plus if you're doing photo manipulation, 3D modeling, and other graphically precise operations. But many users will prefer to set the screen at a lower resolution, which the system must emulate electronically, warping onscreen icons and text. We prefer a 1,280x1,024 native resolution for a 15-inch screen, but Sceptre does not offer this Soundx with that option.

Our test unit came with 128MB of RAM, a 12GB hard drive, and a single swap bay up front that accommodates the included 8x DVD-ROM drive or an added-cost second lithium-ion battery. The system also featured an 800MHz Pentium III processor. The Soundx's Winstone and Content Creation scores lagged those of the Inspiron and an HP OmniBook 6000 in this processor class, and performance on Business Disk WinMark 99 fell even further behind. The Soundx compensated somewhat for such lackluster performance by lasting 3 hours and 44 minutes on our BatteryMark 4.0 test.

Like the Inspiron, the Soundx isn't decked out with fancy extras, spurning dedicated audio-CD buttons, one-touch Internet keys, and IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interfaces. It sticks mainly with meat-and-potatoes legacy ports, augmented with a single USB connector and an S-Video out.

Typing on the Soundx is a dream, thanks to a wonderful keyboard with a full-size Backspace key situated at the very end of its row and arrow keys set well apart from the rest. Key travel was excellent, although resistance was a little too firm for our tastes. The wide wrist rest features a fully programmable Synaptics touch pad with large, comfortable right- and left-click buttons. Outside of a hardware volume control and a fixed floppy drive on the left side, and dual PC Card slots on the right, the Soundx is unadorned.

We were disappointed that the unit comes preloaded with only Windows Me, nothing more. The purchase price includes no productivity suite, antivirus program, or other software goodies of any kind. Nor does it include any extra accessories apart from a nylon carrying case. The nearly identical $2,476 Inspiron we priced on Dell's Web site included our choice of a printer or scanner.

You can configure the Soundx with Ethernet if you so choose, although an internal adapter is not an option—you'll have to go the PC Card route. And we don't recommend purchasing your new notebook from Sceptre's rudimentary Web site, which we found confusing and out of date.

Perhaps least impressive is the service package with which Sceptre backs the notebook. Dell provides three years of onsite service at this price, but Sceptre offers only a year of mail-in service, and toll-free tech support only during business hours on weekdays. You can get a Dell representative on the phone 24/7.

Without a doubt, the Sceptre Soundx 69502 will fulfill most mobile-computing needs, thanks to its powerful computational skills and excellent multimedia performance. And while it's priced right, Sceptre falls a bit short on warranty and software.

—Asa Somers

EDITORS' RATING 5.7

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	5
EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	5
PERFORMANCE	8
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	5
VALUE	5

Excellent multimedia performance; huge, bright screen; comfortable keyboard

No bundled software; one-year warranty

SYSTEM: Sceptre Soundx 69502

COMPANY: Sceptre Technologies
City of Industry, CA
800-788-2878
www.sceptre.com

AS TESTED: 800MHz Pentium III; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 15-inch SXGA+ active-matrix LCD; 8x DVD-ROM drive; ATI Rage Mobility 128 2x graphics chip with 16MB of RAM; ESS Maestro-2E audio chip; twin integrated speakers; internal V.90 modem; touch pad; Windows Me

DIRECT PRICE: $2,399

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900MHZ · · $1489 1.2GHZ · · · · $1591
1GHZ · · · · $1529 1.3GHZ · · · · $1629
1.1GHZ · · · $1543

UNITEDM3000

AMO ATHLON THUNOER8IRO PROCESSOR
& 200MHZ TRANSFER RATE (266MHZ FS8 OPTIONAL)
128MB 133MHZ SDRAM (266MHZ OOR OPTIONAL)
NEW 32MB OOR NVIOIA GEFORCE2 GTS 4X AGP
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900MHZ · · $1139 1.2GHZ · · · · $1239
1GHZ · · · · $1179 1.3GHZ · · · · $1269
1.1GHZ · · · $1199

UNITEDM2000

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900MHZ · · $1049 1.2GHZ · · · $1149
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1.1GHZ · · · $1099

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64MB 133MHZ SDRAM MEMORY
NVIOIA TNT2 32MB
20GB ULTRA ATA66 HD
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ALTEC LANSING ACS54, 4 SPEAKERS W/SU8WOOFER
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56K V.90 FAX/MODEM W/VOICE
CREATIVE LABS SOUNO 8LASTER LIVE! VALUE
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19" .26 SVGA COLOR MONITOR PNP, 1600X1200

800MHZ · · $1349 933MHZ · · $1399
866MHZ · · $1369 1GHZ · · · · $1429

UNITEDM7000

INTEL PENTIUM III PROCESSOR
& 133MHZ TRANSFER RATE (266MHZ FS8 OPTIONAL)
128MB PC133MHZ SDRAM (266MHZ OOR OPTIONAL)
NEW 32MB NVIDIA GEFORCE2 MX TWIN VIEW
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1.44MB FLOPPY DRIVE, 2 USB PORTS
16X MAX DVD-ROM ORIVE
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CYBERVISION C70 17" .27 PNP,1280X1024

800MHZ · · $1109 933MHZ · · $1169
866MHZ · · $1129 1GHZ · · · · $1189

UNITEDM6000

INTEL PENTIUM III PROCESSOR
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128MB PC133MHZ SDRAM (266MHZ DOR OPTIONAL)
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20GB 7200RPM ULTRA ATA100 HD
1.44MB FLOPPY DRIVE, 2 USB PORTS
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MOBILE

TINY PERFORMANCE NOTEBOOK 800

Are the Trade-Offs Worth the Payoff?

WHEN INVESTING A COUPLE OF THOUSAND DOLLARS IN A NOTEbook, it's tempting to go for the security of an established brand. But can taking a chance with an upstart company anxious to grow its business give you a better value? Tiny Computers' $2,099 Performance Notebook 800 certainly sells for much less than many of its competitors, but you'll notice the compromises it makes to achieve its bargain price.

The most obvious is the choice of a desktop version of the Pentium III processor. Because this chip isn't optimized for portable use, it lacks Intel's SpeedStep feature and other power-saving tweaks. As a result, the 800 lasted just over 2.5 hours on our BatteryMark 4.0 test. Tiny said it envisions most purchasers of the notebook to be users looking to replace a dated desktop PC with a speedy notebook—folks who want the convenience of mobility, but who will move the unit only occasionally.



The other caveat that comes with a desktop processor is heat. The bottom of the 800 gets very hot during prolonged use. If you're truly going to be using the laptop on your lap, you'll want to rest it on a thick magazine. The heat didn't cause any stability problems in our testing, however.

Performance-wise, the 800 feels spry, but our application benchmarks proved it to be slightly slower than the other 800MHz notebooks we've tested. It's still quite speedy for a notebook, but when you're comparing prices, be aware that even some 750MHz notebooks edge it out slightly in application tests.

The Tiny notebook uses the Trident CyberBlade i1 AGP graphics controller with 8MB of memory. We tried the bundled Flight Simulator 2000 and observed a fairly smooth frame rate and good image quality. That said, 3D performance is barely acceptable for entertainment titles, at about a third the speed of modern desktop 3D graphics. Graphics updates in business applications, though, are quite speedy, with fast scrolling and quick redraws.

DVD playback is very good, but you'll want to be sure to bring along a pair of headphones or plug in some external speakers, because the maximum volume from the speakers is quite low. Audio is handled by the Via chipset rather than a dedicated sound chip, but the sound quality was decent nevertheless. A small volume dial is embedded in the front of the unit.

Though the 800 is a budget notebook, it doesn't have a generic feel. The silver-blue case is thick and solid, and opening the clamshell reveals a bright, sharp 14.1-inch TFT screen. The keyboard is average, with page-movement keys arrayed along the right side. The touchpad buttons, though, are extremely stiff and require a firm touch.

The floppy and DVD drives are both built in, so you won't have the option to swap in an internal CD-RW or Zip drive. In fact, the notebook is sold in only one configuration, so you can't substitute, say, a larger hard drive for the standard 12GB unit.

The 800 packs the usual complement of expansion ports, with the notable addition of an S-Video output for presentations, plus a pair of USB connectors. The notebook has a built-in 56Kbps modem, but you'll have to add a PC Card network adapter to connect the unit to a LAN.

The primary component of the fairly extensive software bundle is the Microsoft Works Family Pack, which includes Works, Word 2000, Money, Streets & Trips 2000, and Flight Simulator 2000. Unfortunately, Tiny doesn't offer Office as an alternative. Other software includes MGI PhotoSuite III SE, InterVideo WinDVD, and Trend Micro's PC-cillin 2000 virus checker. The inclusion of PowerQuest's SecondChance system-restoration software is perhaps a bit redundant on a Windows Me system, which has similar functionality built in. Tiny doesn't currently offer this notebook with Windows 2000.

Tiny Computers is better known in Europe, claiming to be the largest PC manufacturer in the United Kingdom. The company is new to the United States, but it seems a good bet to stick around. Tiny offers three years of coverage on the 800, but the lack of a money-back guarantee isn't reassuring.

Still, though you can save a few hundred dollars buying the Tiny Performance Notebook 800 instead of a portable from a better-known maker, you'll pay for that discount with unexciting performance, short battery life, and a hot lap.

—Denny Atkin

EDITORS' RATING 5.3

RATED 1 TO 10

DESIGN	5
EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	6
PERFORMANCE	4
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
VALUE	5

👍 Inexpensive; dual USB ports

👎 Uses desktop Pentium III processor; short battery life; no configuration options; stiff touch-pad buttons; no money-back policy

SYSTEM:
Tiny Performance Notebook 800
COMPANY:
Tiny Computers
Tacoma, WA; 888-818-8469
www.tiny.com/us
AS TESTED: 800MHz Pentium III; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM; 12GB hard drive; 14.1-inch XGA active-matrix LCD; 6x DVD-ROM drive; Trident CyberBlade i1 AGP graphics chip with 8MB RAM; Via audio chipset; twin integrated speakers; internal V.90 modem; touch pad; Windows Me; Microsoft Works Family Pack; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: $2,099

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 100

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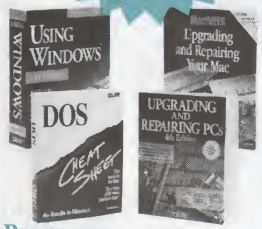
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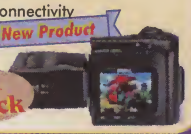
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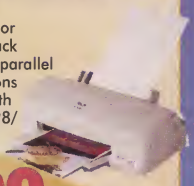
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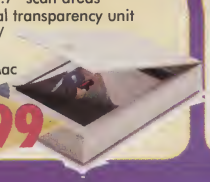
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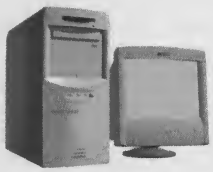
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3Com 10/100 integrated LAN / Windows 2000

$1,419*



Vectra VL800

Desktop model P3631T: Intel Pentium 4 processor 1.4GHz / Intel i850 chipset/
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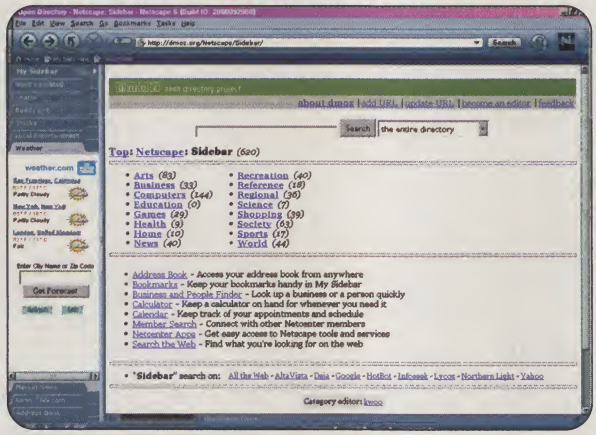
SOFTWARE

NETSCAPE 6

A Great Browser For Slow Surfing

AFTER YEARS OF TWEAKING VERSION 4 OF ITS popular Internet browser, Netscape Communications leapfrogged version 5 to recently launch Netscape 6. This new Netscape is small, customizable, and smart. Unfortunately, it's also unstable and slow.

Based on the open-source browser engine Netscape Gecko, Netscape 6 has a substantially smaller footprint than Internet Explorer. It also has far more performance problems. Netscape 6 took up to four times longer to start than Internet Explorer 5.5 on a Windows 98 system. Similarly, loading a precached version of ZDNet's home page over a LAN connection took 16 seconds, compared with 5 seconds for Internet Explorer 5.5. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)



The first thing you notice about Netscape 6 is the slick, new look of its Modern Theme. Netscape's themes are browser skins that let you give the program the look you want. Also new is My Sidebar, a resizable window that displays a collection of customizable tabs. These so-called "skinny Web pages" are continuously updated and can contain almost anything. They're particularly well-suited for dynamic data like news feeds and stock prices.

Netscape 6 gives you superior control over your personal information. The Cookie Manager lets you control who can set cookies and read information, and the Password Manager allows you to save, view, and remove the usernames and site passwords you've stored. In addition, the Form Manager lets you save, view, delete, and modify form-field data.

With its full Web-standards support, open-source development platform, and innovative features, Netscape 6 packs a lot of punch. Too bad it crashes all the time and is slow as molasses. You may want to wait until the company addresses those issues before upgrading from your current browser.

—Jay Munro

EDITORS' RATING 6.8

RATED 1 TO 10

BROWSING	7
EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	8
PROGRAMMING	8
STABILITY	6
VALUE	6

👍 Lots of customizable features; My Sidebar gives you a window on many sites; Open Source and Web standards

👎 Slow startup and loading; My Sidebar can eat up screen real estate; compatibility problems with existing sites; lack of consistent right-mouse support

PRODUCT: Netscape 6
COMPANY: Netscape Communications
Mountain View, CA
650-254-1900
www.netscape.com
REQUIRES: 64MB RAM. PC: 233MHz Pentium or faster; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0. Mac: G3 or 266MHz PowerPC 604; Mac OS 8.6 or later
PRICE: Free

ZDNet Price It! 34235

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MACROMEDIA DREAMWEAVER 4

The Code That Dreams Are Made Of

MACROMEDIA DREAMWEAVER IS KNOWN FOR providing a clean, no-nonsense production environment for professional Web designers and developers. Dreamweaver 4 furthers that reputation with an abundance of new features that let you effectively manage assets, edit non-HTML text, and build pixel-perfect pages with cross-browser compatibility—all for a reasonable $299.

Dreamweaver's new asset manager is a terrific addition, allowing you to organize images, media, and color schemes into groups and Favorites folders that keep often-used items instantly available. Macromedia's standardized user interface for Dreamweaver, Flash, and Fireworks is also good news for designers: Dreamweaver's round-trip editing lets you tweak graphical elements in Fireworks and then easily import code and images back into Dreamweaver. Version 4 also lets you create vector-based Flash text and buttons directly, without requiring you to load Flash as did previous versions.



Dreamweaver has always produced clean, compatible code, without the added baggage, such as extra header code, found in programs such as Microsoft FrontPage 2000. Version 4 goes further with integrated text that supports live color-coding, brace matching for JavaScript, and block indenting. The new Layout mode lets you click and drag table cells to screen elements in the Design View. In essence, this builds nested tables behind the scenes and keeps pages compatible with most browsers.

Dreamweaver still isn't the perfect development environment, but it remains our tool of choice for building effective, worry-free Web pages. Its overall ease of use and the new Layout mode make it a compelling choice for professional Web designers and designated Webmasters alike.

—J.M.

EDITORS' RATING 7.5

RATED 1 TO 10

BASIC WEB DESIGN	7
EASE OF USE	7
MEDIA INTEGRATION	7
PROGRAMMING	8
SITE MANAGEMENT	8
VALUE	8

👍 New Layout mode ensures better browser compatibility; asset manager provides easy access to design elements; improved team support; WebDav and Visual SourceSafe integration

👎 Lacks a line counter for tracking down runtime errors; site-reporting capability still inferior to competition; lacks features necessary for remote database connectivity and building complex behaviors

PRODUCT: Macromedia Dreamweaver 4
COMPANY: Macromedia
San Francisco, CA
800-288-4797, 415-252-2000
www.macromedia.com
REQUIRES: 32MB RAM. PC: 166MHz or faster Pentium-class processor; 110MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT. Mac: Power Mac; 135MB hard drive space; Mac OS 8.6 or later
LIST PRICE: $299

ZDNet Price It! 34238

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HP recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business

magnesium case, rubber bumpers and dual pointing devices



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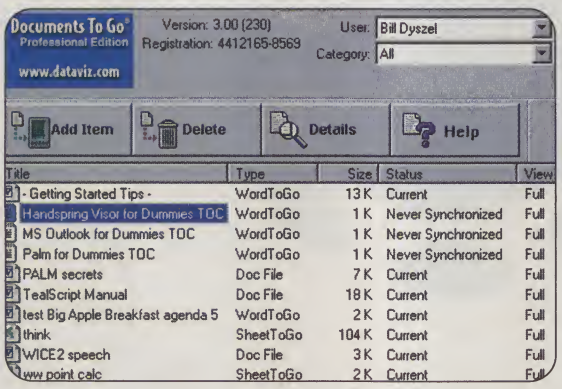
DOCUMENTS TO GO PROFESSIONAL EDITION

SOFTWARE

Put an Office in the Palm of Your Hand

WANT TO UPDATE DOCUMENTS ON THE GO, without a laptop? Then take a look at DataViz's Documents To Go Professional Edition, which puts a miniaturized office suite on your Palm OS device. Documents To Go lets you edit word processing files and spreadsheets on your handheld and then synchronizes the changes with the files on your desktop. Other programs offer the same functionality, but this is the first one that integrates the features most people need into a single, easy-to-use package.

The program offers a surprisingly high level of editing functionality, particularly for Excel files, allowing you to retain calculations and basic number formatting in the spreadsheets you send to your Palm device. Moreover, Documents To Go brings over entire multipage Excel spreadsheets, rather than making you choose a single page. You can also make simple edits to Word files, including text formatting.



Obviously, editing on a tiny Palm screen is far from ideal. You're limited to entering and deleting text and numbers and applying rudimentary type styles (bold, italic, and underline). Unfortunately, when you change text formatting on the Palm and then synchronize, all the formatting on the desktop document is wiped out. (The developers are fixing that problem for a future release.)

Documents To Go also lets you beam documents to other Palm users. If the recipient doesn't have the software, you can beam a free reader program, so the recipient can view, though not edit, the files.

Documents To Go has its limitations when compared to desktop software. Text-formatting options are sparse, but nobody expects to do palmtop publishing quite yet. Similarly, most of Excel's advanced calculation functions don't work on the Palm version. HanDbase, Install Buddy, and iSilo provide richer features, but you'd have to buy, install, and use three separate applications. As it is, Documents To Go gives you a broad range of useful features in a single easy-to-use package.

—Bill Dyszel

EDITORS' RATING 7.5

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	7
INSTALLATION	8
VALUE	7

Seamless two-way synchronization of documents; easy to install and use; runs some Excel formulas

Uses proprietary file format rather than the standard DOC format; limited text-editing tools; no IR print functionality

PRODUCT: Documents To Go Professional Edition
COMPANY: DataViz
Trumbull, CT
800-733-0030, 203-268-0030
www.dataviz.com
REQUIRES: Palm OS: 512K memory; Palm OS 3.0 or later. PC: Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT 4.0; HotSync Manager 3.0 or later. Mac: Mac OS 8.1 or later; HotSync Manager 2.1 or later for Power Macintosh
MFR. EST. PRICE: $49.95

ZDNet Price It!™ 34236

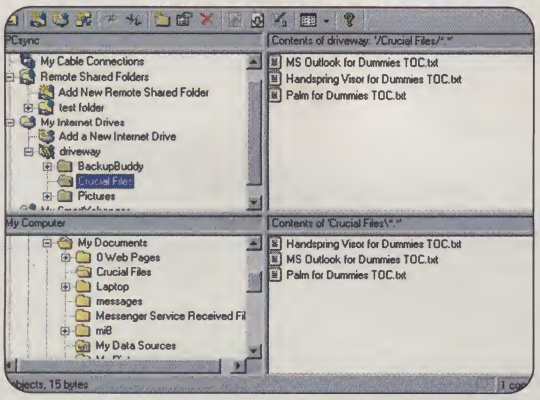
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PCSYNC

Synchronize With The Best of Them

GOT SOME FILES YOU WANT TO TRANSFER between two computers, but don't want to spend $170 for LapLink Gold? Check out LapLink.com's PCsync, which does a fine job for under $80. As with LapLink Gold, PCsync's design goes beyond connecting computers, aiming to streamline and simplify the work of transferring and synchronizing files. Once you've installed PCsync, you can choose from several different methods of connecting your computers: with the included USB or serial cables, over the Internet, or over your LAN.

PCsync specializes in transferring files and synchronizing them between two PCs. It doesn't offer many of LapLink's sophisticated features, such as remote control, infrared connections, or dial-back security. But the multi-windowed, drag-and-drop interface is, in many ways, easier to use than Windows Explorer, and the process of file synchronization moves with surprising speed due to the program's patented SpeedSync technology.



If you use an Internet storage provider such as Driveway, PCsync serves as an unusually slick interface for managing the files you've stored online. The program guides you by the hand through all the steps involved in connecting to an online storage service and displays the files you've uploaded in the same screen that lists your local files.

Before you install PCsync, you'll need to be sure that both computers have a CD-ROM drive, either a USB or serial port, and a Java-capable browser. Unfortunately, quite a few laptops on the market these days aren't equipped with a CD-ROM drive. Even though PCsync has an option to install the program from floppy disks, only CD installations were successful in our tests. LapLink.com is working on better floppy-based installation routines for future versions.

Once you get PCsync installed, you'll appreciate the way it synchronizes your computers and makes file transfers a snap.

—B.D.

EDITORS' RATING 6.8

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	7
FEATURES	7
INSTALLATION	5
VALUE	8

Includes cables that could cost more than $100 alone; strong tech support; connects to several popular Web-storage providers

Difficult to install from floppies

PRODUCT: PCsync
COMPANY: LapLink.com
Bothell, WA; 425-483-8088
www.laplink.com
REQUIRES: 10MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT 4.0
MFR. EST. PRICE: $79.95 ($49.95 for downloadable version)

ZDNet Price It!™ 34233

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

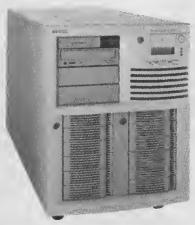
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WEB SERVICES

HOMEADVISOR.COM

Home Is Where The Web Is

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO COPE WITH THE FRIGHTENING intricacies, subtleties, and expense of buying a home, MSN's HomeAdvisor.com wants to help. It also wants to be a comprehensive site for all things related to your living quarters. It may well grow into that someday, but it's not there yet. The Rent, Improve, and Lifestyle sections feel like afterthoughts, and the site is clearly most useful if you're trying to buy or sell a home.

For those new to the world of home buying, the heart of the site will be the Advisor sections. Here, Top Tips offer specific bits of advice, while Guides and Checklists cover broader topics. Although a bit terse, these items are cross-referenced with the superb, fact-packed Q&A pages. These alone make the site worth visiting for the first-time home buyer.



A wealth of useful interactive tools let you look up home valuations and demographic data for most North American cities and neighborhoods, as well as calculate mortgages and other costs. Even with the range of available topics, navigation is generally intuitive, although the crossover with partner sites such as Monstermoving.com and ImproveNet may be confusing for some users.

Overall, HomeAdvisor provides an excellent library of information to help the would-be buyer step wisely through a complex process. But the site is also a paid listing service and a vehicle for MSN and its partners—agents, lenders, insurers, and the like—to market their wares.

In its commercial capacity, HomeAdvisor is one among dozens of sites that provide similar products and services. That isn't to say its offerings are inferior; on the contrary, features such as e-mail notification of listings, virtual tours of certain homes, and the MortgageDirect online loan service make HomeAdvisor one of the better entries in its class. Just keep in mind that while the site is often acting as an impartial consumer resource, at other times it's trying to sell you something.

—Kevin Shay

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	6
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	7
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
VALUE	7

Home-buying info library; handy calculators

Mixes marketing and informational elements

SERVICE: HomeAdvisor.com
COMPANY: Microsoft Corp. Redmond, WA
homeadvisor.msn.com
PRICE: Free

ZDNet Price It!™ 34237

For real-time pricing, go to *priceit.zdnet.com* and enter number.

PHONEFREE

It's Your Call, And It's Free

PHONE COMPANIES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY KEEPING their eyes on services like PhoneFree, which, true to its name, enables computer users to make free long-distance calls via their Internet connections. Based on our tests, the telcos don't have anything to worry about—yet.

The PhoneFree software is a 1MB download that installs itself automatically. The first time you run PhoneFree, you're required to provide some demographic information, including your name, city, income level, and e-mail address, but not your phone number.

Other than that, the only catch is advertising, which appears in a banner-size window attached to the main PhoneFree window. Also, when you end a call, a Web page pops up containing another ad.

The PhoneFree software is admirably versatile, enabling not just PC-to-phone and PC-to-PC calling, but also videoconferencing, voice and video mail (with file attachments), and instant messaging. At press time, the voice-mail option—a killer secondary feature—wasn't operational, but a PhoneFree technician assured us the problem would be repaired soon.



Not surprisingly, your success with PhoneFree depends in large part on the speed and quality of your Internet connection. We made a long-distance, PC-to-phone call over a 56Kbps dial-up connection, enjoying a decent-sounding conversation for about 10 minutes, at which time the person at the other end suddenly couldn't hear us anymore. On another call, we got no further than "hello" when we could no longer hear the other person. A PC-to-phone call placed from a broadband-connected PC yielded good results, but we still noticed light static and an occasional dropout.

PhoneFree recommends the use of a microphone headset (they start at about $20), and we concur. Though hampered by the performance and unpredictability of Internet connections, PhoneFree is a compelling, and potentially revolutionary, service that's well worth trying.

—Rick Broida

EDITORS' RATING 7.4

RATED 1 TO 10

EASE OF USE	8
FEATURES	8
PERFORMANCE	5
SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
VALUE	8

Free; loaded with features; easy to install and use; minimal advertising

Still nowhere near copper-wire quality; unreliable calling with dial-up connections

SERVICE: PhoneFree
COMPANY: PhoneFree New York, NY; 212-964-0268
www.phonefree.com
REQUIRES: 133MHz or faster processor; Windows-compatible sound system; microphone and speakers, or a headset; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0
PRICE: Free

ZDNet Price It!™ 34234

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GAMES

YOU DON'T KNOW JACK 5TH DEMENTIA

Wacky Jack Comes Back

EDITORS' RATING 9.0

ZDNet BEST BUY

You Don't Know Jack 5th Dementia is the latest installment in Sierra's popular trivia game-show series. As in prior versions, up to three contestants can match wits at the same PC, making it one



of the few games to encourage family participation. But 5th Dementia also adds an online component to the action, allowing you to challenge other players across the Internet. That aspect alone makes this the best Jack yet.

For the uninitiated, YDKJ is an offbeat trivia game that awards cash for correctly answering irreverent, pop-culture-oriented questions. For instance, in a category titled "Allergic Reactions to Bad Films," you might have to choose the correct ointment in which to dunk yourself following a screening of *Poison Ivy.* The game contains some 600 questions, few of which can be described as easy (and many of which should carry a PG-13 rating).

To keep things lively, 5th Dementia occasionally breaks from the multiple-choice format with entertaining diversions like the Gibberish Question, in which you must decipher a nonsensical phrase before time runs out, and the newly added Bug Out, which challenges you to identify items that don't belong to a specific group—again with time constraints.

The game's best asset is network play, which lets you hook up with friends or strangers online. We've never encountered a game that made this so seamless and easy—you just choose network play, and 5th Dementia establishes your connection and sets up a game. Whether you're a longtime Jack fan or new to the party, 5th Dementia is a game not to be missed.

(Sierra Attractions; $29.95 34229 ***www.ydkj.com)*** ***—Rick Broida***

TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER 2

Skating Can Be a Real Trip

EDITORS' RATING 6.6

Skate, fall down. Skate, fall down. Not many gamers over the age of 16 will have the patience for Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2, the PC version of the smash-hit console game. Like most extreme-sports titles, it's more a test of how quickly and accurately you can mash the buttons on a gamepad controller than it is a test of skill or dexterity.

That said, Pro Skater 2 is an entertaining diversion. In career mode, you must complete objectives—such as performing certain tricks or collecting scattered objects—to earn cash, which, in turn, buy you more tricks, new boards, improved stats, and access to more skate parks. Eight parks are included with the game (but only one is unlocked), plus a somewhat complicated editor for building your own parks.

You can also create your own skater or ride as one of 13 pros. A diverse hip-hop soundtrack keeps things lively while you compete. If you're not adept with a gamepad or familiar with skateboarding, you're sure to experience some collisions as you try to master the moves, but it's rewarding once you do.

Like its console counterparts, Pro Skater 2 doesn't let you use the keyboard to name players or record high scores. But unlike console games, it supports resolutions up to 1,024x768, plus multiplayer competition on a LAN.

If you've got the patience (and the thumbs) for it, Pro Skater 2 is unquestionably the best PC skateboarding game to date.

(Activision; $39.99 34230 ***www.activision.com)*** ***—R.B.***

NO ONE LIVES FOREVER

That's Bond, Jane Bond

EDITORS' RATING 8.0

Take a '60s-vintage James Bond movie, throw in some henchmen from *Austin Powers,* add a female lead character, mix liberally, and pour on top of a 3D shooter game. The resulting concoction, No One Lives Forever, is easily the sweetest 3D action game since Half-Life.



You're Cate Archer, an operative working for a supersecret, world-saving organization. Because your fellow spies have been gunned down by the evil forces of H.A.R.M., your bosses are breaking with tradition and sending a *woman* into action. Now you get a chance to show those sexist spymasters a thing or two.

You can go through levels with guns blazing and win, but it's more interesting to play the spy and try to accomplish your mission with a low body count. In addition to your traditional gun arsenal, a Q-like engineer will periodically bestow upon you cool gadgets, such as explosive lipstick or sleep gas.

You'll do a lot more than just run down hallways shooting. One scene has you sniping bad guys, duck-hunt-style, from a hotel window, while another sends you plummeting out of an aircraft, tasked with shooting bad guys while trying to steal a parachute before you hit the ground.

The graphics aren't quite as dazzling as those of some recent shooters, but they have a wonderful '60s feel. In addition to the 60 single-player levels, you'll find an entertaining multiplayer game complete with drivable snowmobiles.

Overall, No One Lives Forever is a wonderful break from the bleak-future settings of so many other games. Don't miss it.

(Fox Interactive; $39.95 34232 ***www.the-operative.com)*** ***—Denny Atkin***

SACRIFICE

Strategy of the Gods

EDITORS' RATING 8.2

While we were waiting for Warcraft III to redefine strategy games, Interplay and Shiny beat it to the punch with Sacrifice. This wonderfully bizarre game expertly combines truly original gameplay with enough familiar elements so experienced gamers will have little difficulty adjusting to it.

You're a wizard whose experimentations have resulted in the destruction of your own world. To move to a new universe, you'll need to do the bidding of a pantheon of gods: earth mother Persephone, fire god Pyro, strife-wielder Charnel, aerial master Stratos, and the odd James, who bears a disturbing resemblance to Earthworm Jim.



As each campaign segment begins, you choose which god's bidding to do. This choice not only affects your mission, but also which spells and creatures you'll have access to. How's that for variety?

The game is viewed from a third-person perspective, set behind your wizard. Though you'll do some fighting and spell-casting yourself, most of the work is done through conjured minions. You'll use typical strategy-game tactics in combat, but the 3D perspective of being right in the action is a dramatic change of pace.

The graphics and environmental audio are spectacular, and an editor lets you create your own missions. The only downside is that Sacrifice gets quite challenging in its later stages, and you can't adjust for skill levels.

One of the most original games in recent memory, Sacrifice does a wonderful job of integrating action, strategy, and fantasy in a graphically dazzling package.

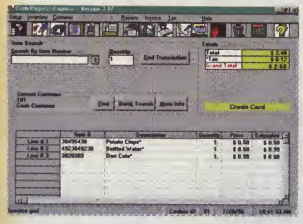
(Interplay Entertainment Corp.; $44.95 34231 ***www.sacrifice.net)*** ***—D.A.***

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Towers of Power

Intel is looking to the future with the Pentium 4, while AMD has revamped the Athlon for peak performance with today's apps. Which one should be in your next PC?

BY BILL O'BRIEN

The battle for CPU supremacy between Intel Corp. and AMD continues to escalate. In fact, both camps recently rolled out their big guns in the form of new processor architectures and clock speeds well in excess of 1GHz.

On one side, we have the Pentium 4, Intel's first significant core-architecture alteration since the Pentium Pro. Inside the Pentium 4 is Intel's NetBurst technology, offering tweaks to the basic architecture, such as a 20-stage pipeline (double that of the Pentium III), a 400MHz system bus, and Streaming SIMD Extensions 2 (SSE2).

SSE2 is a vital component of the new processor. A collection of 144 new 128-bit integer and floating-point instructions that get around the old, sluggish x86/x87-compatible floating-point operations, SSE2 purportedly offers a tenfold improvement in the performance of some applications. In the three Pentium 4 systems reviewed here—the Compaq Presario 7000T, Gateway Performance 1500XL, and IBM NetVista A60i—the 1.5GHz processor is coupled through its 400MHz bus to RDRAM, arguably the fastest memory currently available.

In the other camp, represented by the HP Pavilion 9720A and micronpc.com Millennia Max XP, we have AMD's latest version of the Athlon processor (formerly known as Thunderbird), a revision of the classic Athlon CPU that now includes embedded L2 cache. In the HP system, the 1.2GHz Athlon is connected via a 133MHz bus to SDRAM. Meanwhile, micronpc.com presents its 1.2GHz Millennia Max with a new wrinkle, double-data-

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS GOULD



rate (DDR) SDRAM. DDR can be addressed twice during its clock cycle, effectively doubling the data rate to 266MHz.

Given the technical specifications, the Pentium 4/RDRAM tag team should win this contest with ease. One look at the benchmark results, however, will tell you that's not quite the case. As when Intel moved from the 80486 to the new core architecture of the Pentium, the novelty of the Pentium 4's design is waiting for software to address it. Until that happens, it muddles along as a sort of pumped-up Pentium III, flexing its muscle primarily in 3D and video applications thanks to its larger pipeline and fast RDRAM.

Consequently, the latest Athlon processors, despite their slower clock speed (and even without DDR memory), are competitive with the faster Pentium 4 CPUs. Add DDR to the equation, and the Athlon dominates our testing categories, short of 3D and video. But even in those two areas, the Athlon is no

POWER SYSTEMS



Compaq Presario 7000T

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	**Power Systems**
Price Range	$2,513 to $4,167
Minimum Configuration	1.2GHz (Athlon) or 1.5GHz (Pentium 4) processor; 128MB RAM; 40GB hard drive; DVD-ROM and CD-RW capability; 64MB DDR SDRAM graphics card; 19-inch monitor; stereo speakers
Companies Included	Compaq Computer Corp., Gateway, Hewlett-Packard Co., IBM, micronpc.com
ZD Net BEST BUY	**micronpc.com Millennia Max XP**

slouch. And unlike the Pentium 4/RDRAM combination, DDR adds little to a system's base price, which typically undercuts the pricing of Pentium 4 systems by as much as 25 percent.

But take note: Despite the current advantages of DDR, upcoming applications that may catapult the Pentium 4 forward (as happened with the original Pentium) may not perform as well on Athlon systems. Athlon PCs are today's desktop all-stars, but Pentium 4-based systems could very well be tomorrow's Olympians.

COMPAQ PRESARIO 7000T

EDITORS' RATING **7.7**

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	8	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	6	VALUE	8

PROS: Excellent monitor; vast hard drive; great 3D performance; IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface
CONS: Relatively expensive; no Ultra ATA/100 interface; mediocre stereo speakers; no joystick or gamepad

The Compaq Presario 7000T has all the makings of an awesome desktop PC: a 1.5GHz Pentium 4 processor, a large 75GB hard drive, and advanced 3D graphics. But despite its impressive foundation, this $3,649-direct system is weighed down by configuration compromises that keep it from delivering on its full potential.

Desktop directors will appreciate the 7000T's two IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports and the bundled video-editing software. But while the PC has adequate disk space for digital-video applications, the 7,200-rpm hard drive is connected to an ATA/66 interface, which yielded only moderate results on Business Disk WinMark 99. With an ATA/100 interface (a $30 upgrade), the 7000T could be significantly faster.

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Compaq Presario 7000T	Gateway Performance 1500XL	HP Pavilion 9720A	IBM NetVista A60i	micronpc.com Millennia Max XP
DIRECT PRICE AS TESTED	**$3,649**	**$3,499**	**$2,513 (mfr. est.)**	**$4,167**	**$2,699** ZD Net BEST BUY
CONFIGURATION					
Processor	1.5GHz Intel Pentium 4	1.5GHz Intel Pentium 4	1.2GHz AMD Athlon	1.5GHz Intel Pentium 4	1.2GHz AMD Athlon
Installed Memory (Amount and Type)	128MB RDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB DDR SDRAM
System-Memory Speed	800MHz	133MHz	133MHz	400MHz	266MHz
Chipset	Intel 850	Intel 850	Via KT133	Intel 850	AMD 760
Hard Drive (Capacity/Manufacturer)	75GB/IBM	45GB/IBM*	45GB/Maxtor	75GB/IBM	Two 40GB/Western Digital**
Hard Drive Rotational Speed	7,200 rpm	7,200 rpm	7,200 rpm	7,200 rpm	7,200 rpm
Monitor	Compaq MV-940	Gateway VX920	HP Pavilion V90	IBM P260	micronpc.com 910EX
Monitor Rated Size (Diagonal)	19 inches	19 inches	19 inches	21 inches	19 inches
Monitor Dot Pitch	0.26mm	0.25mm	0.26mm	0.24mm	0.26mm
Graphics Card	Creative Labs 3D Annihilator Ultra	nVidia GeForce2 Ultra	Asus AGP-V7700	ATI All-in-Wonder Radeon	Creative Labs 3D Annihilator Ultra
Graphics Chipset	nVidia GeForce2 GTS Ultra	nVidia GeForce2 Ultra	nVidia GeForce2 GTS Pro	ATI Radeon	nVidia Geforce2 GTS Ultra
Graphics Memory (Amount and Type)	64MB DDR SDRAM	64MB DDR SDRAM	64MB DDR SDRAM	64MB DDR SDRAM	64MB DDR SDRAM
Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live
Speaker System	JBL Platinum	Boston Acoustics BA7500	Polk Audio AMR90	Klipsch ProMedia V.2-400	Altec Lansing ATP5
Number of Speakers	Two	Five	Five	Five	Five
CD-RW Drive	Multisourced	Phillips CDD4801/81	HP CD-Writer Plus	Multisourced	Sony CRX140E
Write Speed (CD-R)	8x	8x	8x	8x	8x
Rewrite Speed (CD-RW)	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x
Maximum Read Speed (CD-ROM)	32x	32x	32x	32x	32x
DVD-ROM Drive (Manufacturer/Speed)	Multisourced/16x	Pioneer/16x	HP/16x	IBM/8x	Multisourced/12x
IEEE 1394 (FireWire) Ports	Two	Three	Three	None	None
USB Ports	Four	Four	Four	Four	Five
Total/Available PCI Slots	Five/one	Five/one	Five/two	Five/three	Seven/one
BUNDLED SOFTWARE	Microsoft Works Suite 2000, Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Money 2000, My Movie Studio	Microsoft Works Suite 2000	Microsoft Works Suite 2000, Quicken Basic 2000, Microsoft Money 2000, Adaptec Easy CD Creator	Microsoft Works Suite 2000, Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition, Microsoft Money 2000	Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business, Norton AntiVirus 2000
SERVICE AND SUPPORT					
Standard Warranty on Labor	One year	One year	One year	Three years	One year
Standard Warranty on Parts	One year	Three years	One year	Three years	Three years
Extended/Upgraded Warranties Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Technical-Support Hours	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily
Toll-Free Technical Support	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Online Technical Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Onsite-Service Term	One year	One year (at discretion of vendor)	Three years ($165)	One year	One year
Who Pays for Shipping Under Warranty	Customer	Gateway	HP	Customer	Customer

* = At press time, Gateway upgraded the hard drive to a 60GB model. ** = The Millennia Max XP uses two 40GB drives with a RAID controller to function as one 80GB hard drive.

The 7000T's 2D- and 3D-graphics performance was comparable with that of competing 1.5GHz systems. Compaq's 19-inch MV-940 monitor, which offers an 18-inch viewing area and 0.26mm dot pitch, also provides crisp graphics and crystal-clear DVD playback.

Unfortunately, the JBL Platinum stereo speakers don't add much to the home-theater experience. The high-end Klipsch ProMedia V.2-400 five-piece system (a $249 upgrade) is better suited to a computer of this caliber—especially because the 7000T's CD-RW drive and spacious hard drive will certainly appeal to MP3 enthusiasts.

The system's midtower case is about 99 percent tool-free. Inside you'll find one PCI slot empty, two available 3.5-inch drive bays (one external and one internal), and one empty external 5.25-inch drive bay.

The 7000T is backed by a one-year parts-and-labor warranty with onsite service. Still, manufacturers of individual system components often provide longer warranties, and you can extend the onsite coverage to a total of three years for another $149. Toll-free hardware support is available for the length of the warranty, but software support ends after 90 days.

With Pentium 4 processors costing a premium right now, we can't fault Compaq for shaving off some extras to keep down the price of this system. But unless you're willing to spend more to upgrade the hard drive interface, speakers, and perhaps the warranty, you'd be better off with a more well-rounded system.

POWER SYSTEMS

GATEWAY PERFORMANCE 1500XL

EDITORS' RATING **7.5**

DESIGN	7	PERFORMANCE	8
EASE OF USE	8	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	7
FEATURES	8	VALUE	7

PROS: Large hard drive; TV/FM-tuner card; fast CD-RW drive; excellent monitor; five-piece speaker system; solid joystick; tool-free chassis
CONS: Too much ambiguity in onsite-service plan; little room for expansion; default configuration has ads on desktop

The aptly named Gateway Performance 1500XL turned in the best all-around performance of the three Pentium 4 systems reviewed here. Equipped with a GeForce2 Ultra-based graphics card with 64MB of DDR memory, the 1500XL blazed through 3D WinMark 2000. The system also posted outstanding scores on our Winstone tests, which gauge performance on business and content-creation applications.

Surprisingly, the 1500XL turned in a lackluster performance on Business Disk WinMark 99, largely due to its ATA/66 interface. For $3,499 direct, we would have expected an Ultra ATA/100 interface. As we were going to press, Gateway upgraded the hard drive to a 60GB model rather than the 45GB drive in our test system.

The system packs both an 8x/4x/32x CD-RW and a 16x DVD-ROM drive, as well as a Hauppauge WinTV tuner card with FM tuning, still-capture and motion-video-capture capability, and a wireless remote. The five-piece Boston Acoustics BA7500 digital speaker system and Gateway's excellent VX920 19-inch monitor also make large contributions to the system's superior multimedia aptitude.

The 1500XL's tool-free chassis is painless to open. Slide two latches at the back, and the side panel pops open. You probably won't need to add much more hardware than what Gateway already gives you—good thing too, because there's not much expansion room in the 18x8x18-inch midtower case. One front-accessible and two internal 3.5-inch bays are all you have. And though one PCI slot is unused on the ISA-less motherboard, any card you insert might have difficulty clearing the heat sink on the adjacent AGP graphics card.



Gateway Performance 1500XL

Gateway's toll-free technical support is available 24 hours daily and staffed by

Thanks for the Memory

Confused by the new flavors of RAM? You're not alone.

For nearly a year, we've been eagerly awaiting the arrival of double-data-rate (DDR) SDRAM as an effective and low-cost system-memory alternative to the costly RDRAM from Rambus.

Interestingly, both types of RAM began as graphics memory. RDRAM never quite took off, but DDR SDRAM has made a dramatic difference in 3D gaming. When it comes to understanding how RDRAM and DDR SDRAM differ as system memory, though, the confusion can be equally dramatic—largely due to marketing claims that overshadow the technical detail.

For example, RDRAM in a Pentium 4 system is typically labeled "PC800." DDR SDRAM, on the other hand, may have a "PC1600" or a "PC2100" tag. Is one really twice as fast as the other? Where do these numbers come from?

The PC800 RDRAM appellation stems from doubling the Pentium 4's 400MHz bus. Although the Pentium 4 really uses a 100MHz bus, Intel employs a technique called "quad pumping" to increase the theoretical bandwidth to 400MHz under optimal conditions. By doubling that number, we arrive at RDRAM's 800MHz data transfer rate.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BLECK

DDR SDRAM's labeling is a bit more complex. It starts with either a 100MHz or 133MHz system bus. But rather than simply doubling the bus speed to get PC200 or PC266—which clearly doesn't top PC800 in the numbers game—a different equation is applied. For 100MHz bus systems, it's 100 multiplied by the 64-bit data length, then by 2 (the number of access periods), then divided by 8 (to convert bits to bytes). That's how we get 1,600. For using DDR SDRAM in a 133MHz system, just substitute "133" for "100" in the recipe. The result, 2,128, is a bit unwieldy, so it's rounded to 2,100.

So who wins? We can't draw any substantive conclusions after having tested only one DDR SDRAM-based system—the micronpc.com Millennia Max XP—especially one with a faster hard drive than most of its competitors. But when we compare the micronpc.com system's results with the scores of Pentium 4/RDRAM systems we've seen, DDR SDRAM appears to hold its own against RDRAM using current hardware and software.

But don't think you have it figured out just yet. Intel's recent announcement that future Pentium 4s will support both DDR SDRAM *and* PC133 SDRAM means we'll have to learn a whole new set of numbers before long.

knowledgeable technicians. The Performance 1500XL is covered by a three-year parts warranty, with one year of onsite coverage, which is implemented at Gateway's discretion on a case-by-case basis. Clearly, for this class of system, a better-defined policy would be preferable.

We've yet to come across a Pentium 4-based system that perfectly balances top-speed performance and all the features you'd expect in a high-end PC. But the Gateway Performance 1500XL comes about as close as we've seen.

POWER SYSTEMS

HP PAVILION 9720A

EDITORS' RATING **7.2**

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	7
EASE OF USE	7	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
FEATURES	8	VALUE	7

PROS: Comparably low price; good speakers; front and rear USB and IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports; front-mounted serial port; tool-free case with plenty of expansion room
CONS: Meager warranty; huge tower case; relatively small hard drive

The HP Pavilion 9720A is the Volvo of high-end PCs. It's roomy, offers good performance, and has all the requisite features at a reasonable $2,513-estimated price.

A 1.2GHz Athlon CPU powers the Pavilion 9720A, but it offers little to no performance benefits over systems with slightly slower Athlon processors. Generally, the system's benchmark performance was average across the board on most tests. Its sole standout score was on Business Disk WinMark 99, where it was bested only by the micronpc.com Millennia Max XP.

The Pavilion's connectivity options are outstanding, however, with front and rear USB and IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports, and even an extra front-mounted serial port for devices with older connectivity requirements (such as a Palm handheld).

The 19-inch Pavilion V90 monitor has an 18-inch viewing area and an 0.26mm dot pitch. Sounds get pumped through a Sound Blaster Live Value card and into a Polk Audio AMR90 four-channel, surround-sound speaker system that provides real spatial audio effects and deep, resonant bass.

The massive 20x9x20-inch tower case leaves plenty of room for expansion. Access to the interior is tool-free, and a pressure bar holds the PCI cards in place. Inside you'll find two available PCI slots and two empty external drive bays. Most components are held in place with thumbscrews, but you'll need a screwdriver for the drive bays.

The Pavilion 9720A is covered by what HP calls a "Return to Bench" policy: You send the PC back or carry it in to your local HP dealer. Furthermore, the warranty only lasts one year. We feel this arrangement is a bit lean, but most larger HP resellers can offer you an extra-cost extended plan with onsite service if you need it.



HP Pavilion 9720A

The HP Pavilion 9720A offers a solid mix of performance and features. It's a good option for families willing to spend a little extra for a system that's truly got some pop.

IBM NETVISTA A60I

EDITORS' RATING **7.7**

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	7
EASE OF USE	6	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	9	VALUE	8

PROS: Excellent monitor; superior speakers; TV/FM tuner on graphics card; three-year warranty
CONS: Expensive; no IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports; hard drive was improperly set up

Pulling out all the stops, IBM has made its 1.5GHz Pentium 4 NetVista A60i the biggest, baddest dog on the block. The system sells for just over $4,000 and is so feature-rich that it's bound to inspire major Pentium 4 envy.

Hooking up the awesome five-piece Klipsch speaker system is only a little less tedious than dealing with the connections on the back of a stereo receiver. Attaching the optional IBM P260 monitor is a simpler, one-plug connection, but lifting it onto your desk may be difficult—the 21-inch P260 weighs about 70 pounds.

Still, you'll be rewarded for the trouble. Pop an audio CD into the DVD or CD-RW drives, and prepare yourself to be amazed by the speakers' astounding audio quality. Slide in a DVD, and that same sound will wrap around you while the monitor's 19.8-inch viewing area presents you with a nearly flat image. The NetVista's ATI All-in-Wonder Radeon graphics card also lets you enjoy television and radio on your PC, and even record from your VCR. If you have a large-screen television, you can display the images on it.

Although the NetVista came up a bit short on both the 2D- and 3D-graphics benchmark tests, the results weren't unexpected. Graphics cards that also provide extra video options typically lag behind dedicated graphics-accelerator-only cards; in this case, the graphics subsystem runs more like that of a well-configured 800MHz Pentium III machine. Hard drive performance is about average, although our test system had only 51GB of its total 75GB partitioned and formatted.

You'll find a pair of USB ports on both the front and back, but no IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports anywhere. Inside, three internal 3.5-inch bays and three PCI slots are open for expansion.

(continued on page 119)

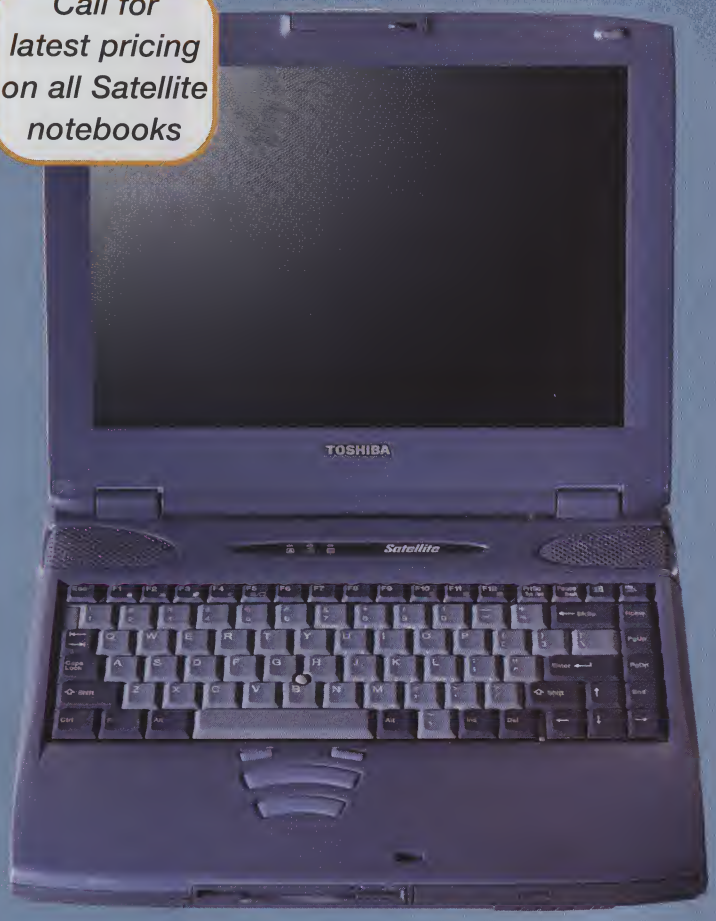
< BENCHMARK RESULTS >

	Compaq Presario 7000T	Gateway Performance 1500XL	HP Pavilion 9720A	IBM NetVista A60i	micronpc.com Millennia Max XP (BEST BUY)
PROCESSOR	1.5GHz Pentium 4	1.5GHz Pentium 4	1.2GHz Athlon	1.5GHz Pentium 4	1.2GHz Athlon
SYSTEM MEMORY	128MB RDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB DDR SDRAM
APPLICATION PERFORMANCE					
Business Winstone 2001	38.2	39.6	38.4	39.3	42.6
Content Creation Winstone 2001	38.6	35.8	36.5	36.7	41.5
GRAPHICS SUBSYSTEM					
3D WinMark 2000 (1,024x768 @ 16-Bit Color)	206	208	172	157	203
3D WinMark 2000 (1,024x768 @ 32-Bit Color)	158	159	132	110	156
Business Graphics WinMark 99	344	349	377	346	533
Quake III Arena (Frames per Second) (800x600 @ 16-Bit Color)	169	161	123	105	145
DISK SUBSYSTEM					
Business Disk WinMark 99	5,970	5,840	6,340	3,700	10,000

All tests run at 1,024x768 and 32-bit color at an 85Hz refresh rate, except where noted. HIGHER SCORES ARE BETTER

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Toshiba recommends Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional for business.



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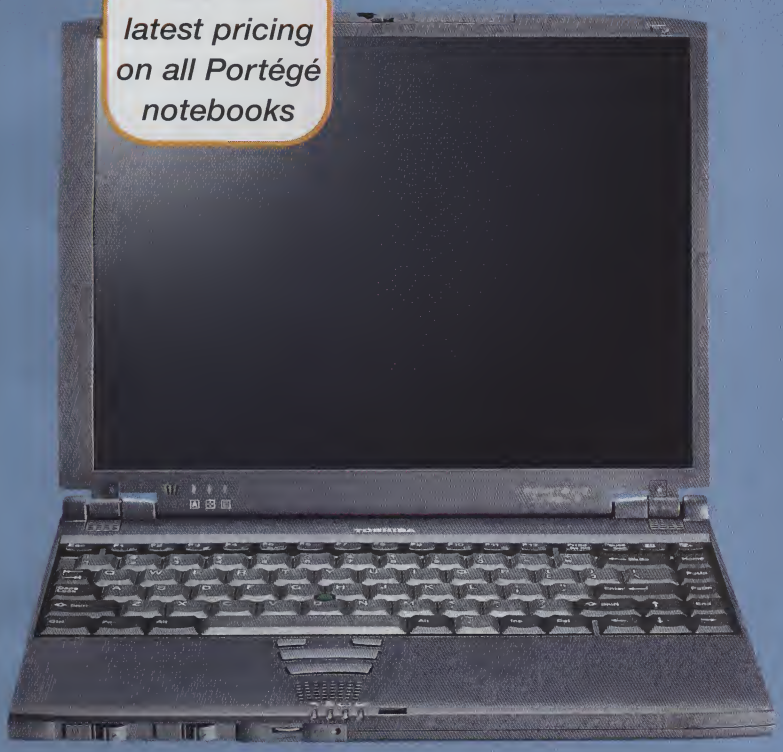
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TOSHIBA

(continued from page 112)

IBM covers the NetVista for three years on parts and labor, with the first year onsite. The last two years leave you with carry-in service—not the best arrangement for a PC with a gigantic monitor.

The NetVista A60i's performance is in the ballpark for a 1.5GHz Pentium 4 system, but it's the magnitude of the components accompanying it that make this PC such a compelling choice.



IBM NetVista A60i

POWER SYSTEMS

MICRONPC.COM MILLENNIA MAX XP

EDITORS' RATING **8.2**

DESIGN	8	PERFORMANCE	9
EASE OF USE	8	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	8	VALUE	8

PROS: Comparably low price; as fast as a Pentium 4 system; great five-piece speaker system; front-mounted USB ports; variety of extended warranty plans

CONS: Only one open PCI slot; no IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports

ZDNet BEST BUY

The first system to use DDR system memory, the $2,699-direct Millennia Max XP from micronpc.com is a 1.2GHz Athlon desktop that comes in two flavors based on the speed of the DDR memory, 200MHz and 266MHz. We tested the 266MHz version.

Our test system included a Promise Technology Fast Track100 controller and a pair of 40GB hard drives with an Ultra ATA/100 interface. The Fast Track100 is an Ultra ATA/100 RAID controller designed to treat the two physical 40GB drives as one 80GB logical drive with RAID 0 striping. The result was a Business Disk WinMark 99 score of 10,000—or about 35 percent better than the average system equipped with a hard drive using an Ultra ATA/66 interface. The Millennia Max also set a new record for Business Graphics WinMark 99 with a score of 533. The system's 3D WinMark 2000 results were comparable to those of the Pentium 4 systems, but it did post slightly slower frame rates on the Quake III Arena test.

Despite its relatively low price, the Millennia Max includes plenty of features you'd expect in a high-end system: 12x DVD-ROM and 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drives (micronpc.com also offers a combination DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive, the Ricoh MP9120A, for the same price), a sharp micronpc.com 910EX 19-inch monitor, and the outrageously strong Altec Lansing ATP5 five-piece speaker system. The PC is housed in a 18.5x7x18.5-inch midtower case, but don't count on finding much expansion room inside. Only one PCI slot is available, and you'll need to dig it out from under the drive cables. Drive expansion is limited to the two accessible 3.5-inch bays. Two extra USB ports reside on the front of the case, but you won't find any IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports.

Technical support is toll-free, and the Millennia Max's warranty provides for a year of onsite service, with three years of coverage for parts. You can also select an optional warranty plan, with up to five years of onsite coverage adding $299.

With its chart-topping application performance and a price roughly $1,000 less than that of most Pentium 4 systems, the micronpc.com Millennia Max XP is clearly a great choice for power users of all stripes.

THE POWERS THAT BE

If you're purchasing a new PC these days, you have to ask yourself if you really need the fastest processor on the market. Chances are, the answer will be "no." However, certain users can benefit from the extra speed—specifically graphics professionals, gamers, home-video enthusiasts, and even bankers and accountants.

That said, the micronpc.com Millennia Max XP is clearly a superior value in the current climate—you couldn't ask for much more than 1.5GHz Pentium 4 performance at about 75 percent of a Pentium 4's price. The Millennia Max delivers that with its 1.2GHz Athlon CPU and DDR SDRAM, rounding things off with great multimedia features and excellent warranty options.

In the face of the 60GB, 75GB, or even 80GB hard drive storage options available with most of these systems, HP could have nudged its Pavilion 9720A up a notch with a higher-capacity drive. Adding onsite service to the first year of the warranty would have been a welcome addition as well.

And then there are the Pentium 4 systems. The Pentium 4 architecture will probably dominate the PC landscape in the months to come, but the current steep system pricing and lack of SSE2-enhanced software on the market makes it difficult to give any Pentium 4-based PC an unqualified recommendation. ▼



micronpc.com Millennia Max XP

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< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.7	8.2 ZDNet BEST BUY
SYSTEM	Compaq Presario 7000T	Gateway Performance 1500XL	HP Pavilion 9720A	IBM NetVista A60i	micronpc.com Millennia Max XP
COMPANY	Compaq Computer Corp. Houston, TX 800-888-0554 *www.compaq.com*	Gateway N. Sioux City, SD 800-846-4208 *www.gateway.com*	Hewlett-Packard Co. Palo Alto, CA 800-752-0900 *www.hp.com*	IBM Corp. Armonk, NY 800-426-4968 *www.ibm.com*	micronpc.com Meridian, ID 888-224-4247 *www.micronpc.com*
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- Introduction by Rick Broida

- Reviews by Brad Dosland, Phil Lacefield Jr., John Morris, and Jeff Sauer


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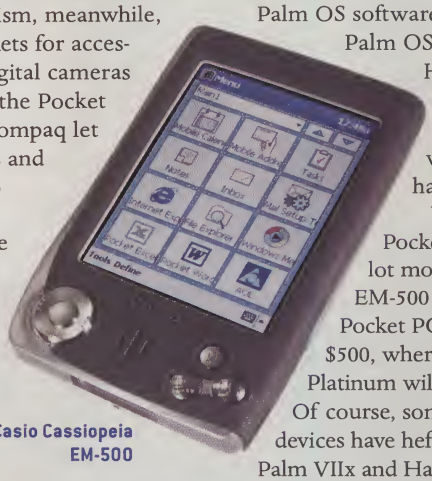
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Minimum Configuration	8MB RAM; 3-inch LCD; Palm or Microsoft Pocket PC OS; USB or serial connection; weight under 8 ounces
Companies Included	*Casio, Compaq Computer Corp., Handspring, Palm*
ZDNet BEST BUY	**Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC Handspring Visor Platinum Palm VIIx**

Jotting down reminders in a date book bursting with business cards and yellow Post-its is no way to get ahead in the 21st century. It's time to ditch that bulky, dead-tree anachronism and embrace technology. With the latest handheld PCs from Casio, Compaq, Handspring, and Palm, you can squeeze your entire life—appointments, contacts, to-do lists, and more—into a device that slips unobtrusively into a pocket or purse.

But the latest handhelds are about more than just effective organization. Witness the Palm VIIx, which has a built-in radio transmitter for wireless connectivity to e-mail and the Web. (You can add wireless and landline modems to most other handhelds, too.) The Handspring Visor Platinum and Prism, meanwhile, feature expansion sockets for accessories ranging from digital cameras to GPS receivers. And the Pocket PCs from Casio and Compaq let you record voice notes and play your favorite MP3 music.



Casio Cassiopeia EM-500

Though you may be tempted to select a handheld based solely on its hardware features, don't ignore the software. Microsoft Corp.'s Pocket PC operating system differs significantly from the Palm OS. The Pocket PC OS includes slimmed-down versions of Word, Excel, Outlook, and Explorer, thereby affording vastly superior synchronization with their desktop counterparts. Palm OS devices can be synchronized with Word, Excel, and Outlook, but they require third-party software to do so.

On the other hand, the Palm OS is generally much easier to learn and use, and is compatible with an enormous library of third-party software that can dramatically extend the devices' capabilities. Plus, all Palm OS software is compatible with all Palm OS devices (including Handspring's Visors), whereas not all Pocket PC software works with every Pocket PC handheld.

You'll also pay more for a Pocket PC—in some cases, a lot more. The Casio Cassiopeia EM-500 and Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC both sell for about $500, whereas the Handspring Visor Platinum will set you back just $299. Of course, some of the Palm OS devices have hefty price tags as well. The Palm VIIx and Handspring Visor Prism each sell for $449.

Finally, there's the matter of expansion. The Palm VIIx comes with 8MB of RAM—enough to hold thousands of records—but lacks a memory or cartridge slot. That may not be a problem if you can

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Casio Cassiopeia EM-500	Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC (BEST BUY)	Handspring Visor Platinum (BEST BUY)	Handspring Visor Prism	Palm VIIx (BEST BUY)
MFR. EST. PRICE	$499.99	$499	$299	$449	$449
Dimensions (HWD, Inches)	0.8x3.3x5	5.1x3.3x0.6	4.8x3x0.7	4.8x3x0.8	5.3x3.3x0.8
Weight (With Batteries, Ounces)	7.7	6.3	5.4	6.9	6.7
Available Colors	Blue, green, red, sky blue, yellow	Silver	Platinum	Cobalt blue	Black
Operating System	Microsoft Pocket PC	Microsoft Pocket PC	Palm OS	Palm OS	Palm OS
Operating System Version	Windows CE 3.0	Windows CE 3.0	3.5.2H	3.5.2H	3.5H
Processor	150MHz NEC VR4122	206MHz Intel StrongARM SA-1110	33MHz Motorola DragonBall VZ	33MHz Motorola DragonBall VZ	20MHz Motorola DragonBall EZ
Internal Memory (RAM)	16MB	32MB	8MB	8MB	8MB
Flash Memory (ROM)	16MB	16MB	None	None	2MB
Expansion Slots	MultiMediaCard	Provided via optional Expansion Packs	Springboard	Springboard	None (serial only)
Display	Color	Color	Gray scale	Color	Gray scale
Display Size (Diagonal, Inches)	3.9	3.9	3.0	3.0	4.0
Display Resolution	240x320	240x320	160x160	160x160	160x160
Number of Colors Displayed	65,536	4,096	NA	65,536	NA
Number of Gray Shades Displayed	NA	NA	16	NA	16
LCD Type	TFT	TFT	FSTN	TFT	FSTN
Touch Screen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Handwriting-Recognition Software	Microsoft Transcriber	Character Recognizer, Transcriber	Graffiti	Graffiti	Graffiti, onscreen keyboard
Modem Included	No	No	No	No	No
Computer Interface	USB	USB, serial	USB (serial option)	USB (serial option)	Serial
AC Adapter/Charger Included	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (cradle)	Yes
Docking Cradle Included	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Headphone Jack	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Built-In Speaker	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Built-In Microphone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Picture Viewer	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
MP3 Player	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Host Computer Platform	PC	PC	PC, Mac	PC, Mac	PC
Battery Type	Lithium-ion	Lithium-polymer	AAA alkaline	Lithium-ion	AAA
Rated Battery Life	8 hours	12 hours	6 to 8 weeks	2 weeks	2 to 4 weeks
Batteries Rechargeable	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Warranty	One year	One year	One year	One year	One year

NA = Not applicable

live without extra storage space or features. But you'll have better protection against obsolescence with the Casio, Compaq, and Handspring handhelds, all of which offer some measure of expandability.

CASIO CASSIOPEIA EM-500

EDITORS' RATING **8.0**

APPLICATIONS	9	PERFORMANCE	7
DESIGN	9	VALUE	8
EASE OF USE	7		

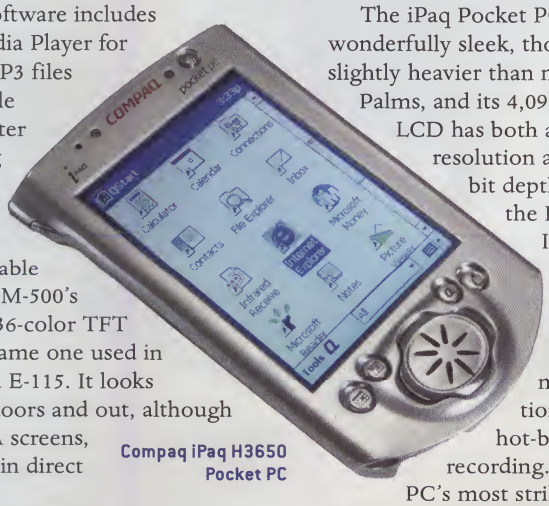
PROS: Thin, light design; reasonably fast processor; USB synchronization; excellent color display; available in five colors
CONS: Only 16MB of memory; no CompactFlash slot (MMC only); no hard-shell case; no docking cradle (cable only)

All those complaints about the heft of Casio's otherwise stellar Cassiopeia E-115 have resulted in a slimmer, sleeker design for the new Cassiopeia EM-500. The trim size and reduced weight (7.7 ounces) make the unit easy to fit into a jacket pocket, yet it feels solid in your hand.

The $499.99-estimated EM-500 comes in a choice of five colors. The unit lacks a hard-shell case to cover the screen, though the included nylon slipcase should protect it from most scratches.

The EM-500 is Casio's first PDA to employ SanDisk Corp.'s MultiMediaCard (MMC) format. MMC offers postage-stamp-size storage in capacities from 8MB to 64MB, at prices comparable to those of CompactFlash (CF) or SmartMedia cards. But the PDA can't accommodate CF-based accessories, including CF modem cards for browsing the Web or checking e-mail in real time.

Bundled software includes Windows Media Player for listening to MP3 files and CSI Mobile Video Converter for converting MPEG-1, AVI, and QuickTime files to a viewable format. The EM-500's excellent 65,536-color TFT screen is the same one used in the Cassiopeia E-115. It looks great both indoors and out, although like most PDA screens, it looks faded in direct sunlight.



Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC

The EM-500's 150MHz processor is slightly faster than the 132MHz chip in its portly predecessor. But the unit's 16MB of RAM is barely enough to store all the necessary applications for basic work. Casio's switch from the sluggish serial port connection to USB is a vast improvement, however. The lithium-ion battery pack is good for more than 8 hours of steady usage and can be charged directly from the unit using the separate wall jack. (A serial-port/charger cradle is no longer provided.)

Ultimately, the Casio Cassiopeia EM-500 is trapped between extremes. If you need a PDA to look up phone numbers and keep track of appointments, you'd be better off with a less costly Palm-based organizer. But if you want the multimedia features of the Pocket PC platform, you'd probably choose a device with 32MB of memory and CF support.

COMPAQ IPAQ H3650 POCKET PC

EDITORS' RATING **9.0**

APPLICATIONS	9	PERFORMANCE	10
DESIGN	10	VALUE	9
EASE OF USE	7		

PROS: Great color display; sexy design; fast processor; 32MB of RAM; optional Expansion Packs
CONS: No built-in expansion slot

ZDNet BEST BUY

Microsoft's powerful handheld OS has found its hardware match in the Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC. The iPaq Pocket PC's fast 206MHz Intel StrongARM processor and 32MB of RAM are more than enough for appointment-making and note-taking, as well as playing music, displaying pictures from a digital camera or the Web, and voice recording.

The iPaq Pocket PC is wonderfully sleek, though slightly heavier than most Palms, and its 4,096-color LCD has both a higher resolution and color bit depth than the Palm IIIc's display. Its shiny chrome enclosure is slightly tapered, with four buttons for accessing commonly used applications and a separate hot-button for audio recording. But the iPaq Pocket PC's most striking feature is the speaker at the unit's bottom center, which doubles as a five-way navigation button for quick movement around the screen—particularly useful for game playing.

Compaq touts the iPaq Pocket PC's

The Shape of Handhelds to Come

What's next for PDAs? Aside from the obvious—thinner designs, better screens, and lower prices—count on seeing more multifunction capabilities. Handspring's Visor line is the perfect example: Thanks to its modular Springboard socket, it can become an MP3 or audiobook player, a digital camera, a reference library, or even a cell phone.

Of course, future handhelds may build in such desirable functionality without requiring external accessories. Witness the Franklin eBookMan, which is positioned as a dedicated e-book reader but also offers a wealth of extra features. Like the Palm handhelds, it manages contacts, calendars, tasks, and memos. And like Pocket PCs, it doubles as a voice recorder and an MP3 player. It can play audio books from Audible.com, and it even has a slot for MMC memory cards, which opens the door to virtually unlimited storage. Not bad for a device that starts at $129.

Mobile phones are at the forefront of this movement, with heavyweights such as Microsoft, Motorola, and Nokia working to integrate PDA and Internet functionality into their products. The Nokia 9210 Communicator, for example, is a phone that unfolds to reveal a miniature QWERTY keyboard and color screen. In addition to e-mail and Web browsing, it offers PDA features and support for Word and Excel documents. Microsoft's forthcoming smart phone, code-named Stinger, squeezes a button-operable version of the Pocket PC operating system into a diminutive handset. And Kyocera Wireless, which last year acquired Qualcomm's hardware division, recently unveiled a smaller, sexier version of the pdQ, a Palm/cell-phone hybrid (for more information about the Kyocera QCP 6035 Smartphone, see this month's Hot Gear section).



Bucking the trend toward smaller handhelds, so-called tablet PCs promise pen-driven operation with computer-like functionality. At the COMDEX computer show last November, Bill Gates outlined a Tablet PC spec that includes a 500MHz to 600MHz processor, 128MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, and USB ports—all in a "handheld" that is essentially all screen. Also at COMDEX, Fujitsu introduced the Stylistic LT C-500, a 2.5-pound tablet with an 8.4-inch TFT screen, a 6GB hard drive, and a choice of operating system (Windows 98 or 2000). —*R.B.*

ILLUSTRATION BY DENNIS HARMS

expansion capabilities as one of its strongest features. But the unit has neither a built-in modem nor an expansion-card slot. Instead, the iPaq Pocket PC uses plastic sleeves—Compaq calls them Expansion Packs—that add a PC Card slot or a CF card slot. That means the iPaq Pocket PC can use a variety of connectivity tools such as wireless modems, wireless networking cards (supporting the IEEE 802.11b standard), or CF modems. On the other hand, the Expansion Packs are additional pieces to carry around or lose.

The downside to the iPaq Pocket PC's color screen and fast processor is its relatively brief battery life. Compaq uses an innovative lithium-polymer battery that molds to the shape of the unit's interior, and rates battery life at 12 hours between charges. Don't count on that longevity if you plan to use all of the unit's multimedia capabilities, however.

Compared to Palm-based organizers, the Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC is hardly a bargain, but it is the only Pocket PC-based handheld that offers 32MB of RAM for under $500. Factor in its cool design, fast processor, and loads of features, and it is clearly the Pocket PC to beat.

HANDSPRING VISOR PLATINUM

EDITORS' RATING **8.2**

APPLICATIONS	8	PERFORMANCE	9
DESIGN	8	VALUE	7
EASE OF USE	9		

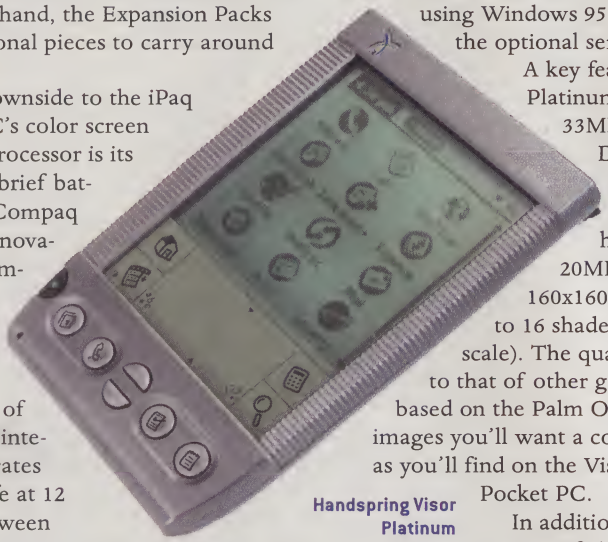
PROS: Fast; plenty of memory; handsome new look; Springboard expansion slot; wide range of applications
CONS: Same size and weight as earlier Visors; no color support; no rechargeable battery; most expensive monochrome Visor

ZDNet BEST BUY

Though the Handspring Visor Platinum is just a step up from the first generation of Visor handhelds, its faster processor will appeal to corporate users with the budget to afford top performance. The Platinum outruns all Palm handhelds and includes a docking cradle with a USB interface—unlike the standard serial connection on most Palms—as well as a slick-looking metallic case.

HANDHELD PCs

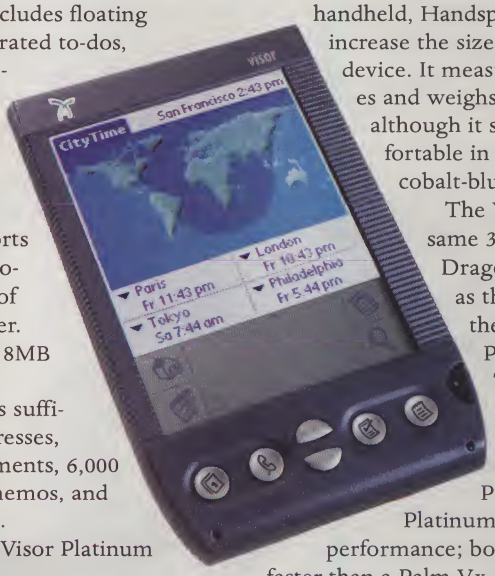
The $299-estimated Visor Platinum is the same size (4.8x3x0.7 inches) and weight (5.4 ounces) as the entry-level Visor and the Visor Deluxe. Like those models, it uses two AAA batteries rated for 6 to 8 weeks under normal usage. The Visor line works out of the box with Macs, as well as Windows 98, 2000, and Me. (If you're still using Windows 95 or NT, you'll need the optional serial cable.)



Handspring Visor Platinum

A key feature of the Visor Platinum is its faster 33MHz Motorola DragonBall VZ processor; the fastest Palm handhelds top out at 20MHz. Its backlit 160x160 screen displays up to 16 shades of gray (4-bit gray scale). The quality is comparable to that of other gray-scale PDAs based on the Palm OS, but for viewing images you'll want a color display such as you'll find on the Visor Prism or a Pocket PC.

In addition to the latest version of the Palm OS (3.5.2H), the Visor Platinum includes all standard Palm applications, as well as Date Book Plus (which includes floating appointments, integrated to-dos, and a journal), scientific and business calculators, and a world clock for frequent flyers or business travelers. The Platinum also supports infrared data synchronization—a feature of Palm OS 3.5 and later. The device includes 8MB of memory, which Handspring claims is sufficient for 12,000 addresses, 10 years of appointments, 6,000 to-do items, 6,000 memos, and 400 e-mail messages.



Handspring Visor Prism

The Handspring Visor Platinum doesn't really break any new or exciting ground for handhelds. But if you've got your heart—or budget—set on a Visor, and you want the ultimate in power, storage, and expandability, the Visor Platinum is your best bet.

HANDSPRING VISOR PRISM

EDITORS' RATING **8.0**

APPLICATIONS	8	PERFORMANCE	9
DESIGN	8	VALUE	6
EASE OF USE	9		

PROS: Vivid 16-bit-color display; plenty of memory; rechargeable battery; Springboard expansion slot
CONS: Slightly larger/heavier than other Visors; 160x160 resolution; most expensive Visor

Like the citizens of *Pleasantville*, the Palm-based players are being dragged out of their gray world and into the light by competition from the Pocket PC. Thus, we have the $449-estimated Handspring Visor Prism, which successfully marries the popular Palm OS and straightforward Visor design with a brilliant color display.

The Visor Prism supports up to 65,536 colors, matching the color depth of the Casio Cassiopeia EM-500. Bear in mind, however, that the Visor Prism—like all devices based on the Palm OS—is restricted to a 160x160 resolution, whereas Pocket PCs have a 240x320 resolution. As a result, the Visor Prism's adjustable backlit display appears a bit grainy.

In another first for Handspring, the Visor Prism includes a rechargeable lithium-ion battery that is rated for 2 weeks of normal usage (or 6 hours of continuous usage). Like all Visors, it includes a USB cradle and works with both PCs and Macs.

To squeeze color into a Palm-based handheld, Handspring had to slightly increase the size and weight of the device. It measures 4.8x3x0.8 inches and weighs 6.9 ounces, although it still feels quite comfortable in your hand. And the cobalt-blue case looks great.

The Visor Prism uses the same 33MHz Motorola DragonBall VZ processor as the Visor Platinum—the fastest of any Palm-based handheld. Testing with Quartus' Benchmark 2.0 found the Visor Prism and Visor Platinum offered comparable performance; both were 82 percent faster than a Palm Vx. The Visor Prism also ships with 8MB of memory, version 3.5.2H of the Palm OS, all of the standard Palm applications, and Date Book Plus. It supports infrared data synchronization as well.

By Visor standards, the Prism carries a hefty price tag, though it's still $50 less

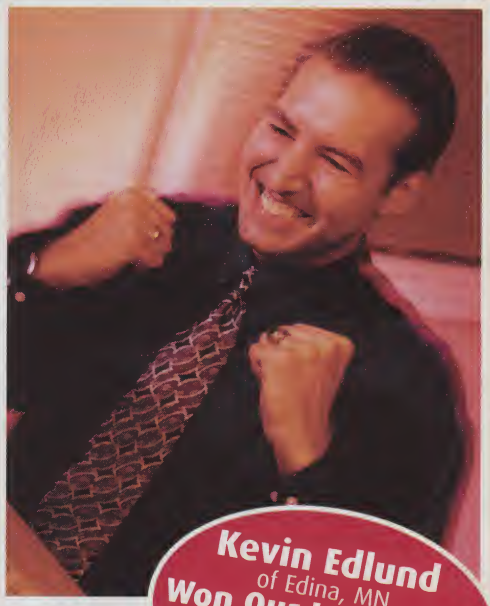
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than the least expensive Pocket PCs. For the most colorful Palm-based experience around, the Visor Prism is the way to go.

PALM VIIX

EDITORS' RATING **8.2**

APPLICATIONS	9	PERFORMANCE	8
DESIGN	8	VALUE	7
EASE OF USE	9		

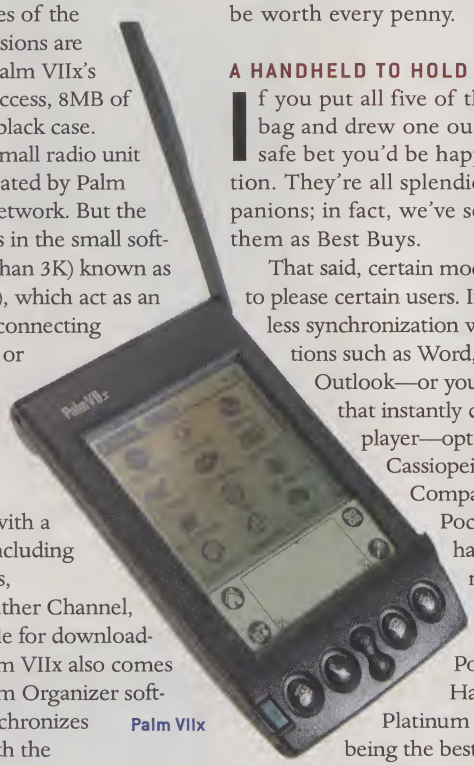
PROS: Wireless access to e-mail and the Web; spacious 8MB of memory; ships with plenty of "Web clipping" software; stylish black body; smaller than other handhelds with add-on modems
CONS: Expensive hardware and monthly service; no USB cradle; no screen protector

ZDNet BEST BUY

The Palm VIIx is the ultimate handheld for the well-connected traveling executive. Although it lacks the color display of the Palm IIIc and the slim lines of the Palm V series, these omissions are more than offset by the Palm VIIx's integrated wireless data access, 8MB of memory, and handsome black case.

The Palm VIIx has a small radio unit that accesses servers operated by Palm via the BellSouth Data Network. But the power of the Palm VIIx is in the small software apps (typically less than 3K) known as Palm Query Apps (PQAs), which act as an interface to the Web. By connecting with either static content or dynamic material served by a site's scripts, the PQA delivers data nearly anywhere within the United States.

The Palm VIIx ships with a slew of PQAs installed, including software from ABC News, Travelocity, and The Weather Channel, and 400 more are available for downloading at Palm.Net. The Palm VIIx also comes with the full array of Palm Organizer software, and seamlessly synchronizes all your personal data with the included desktop PIM. If you've already invested in another PIM, you can synchronize your data through a utility Palm calls a "conduit." Basic updating is possible, but the Palm pales in comparison to the synchronization possible with Pocket PCs.



Palm VIIx

At $449 estimated, the Palm VIIx is the most expensive model in the Palm line. But the cost doesn't end there. In addition to a $10 setup fee, you must subscribe to a wireless-service program that ranges from $10 a month (plus usage charges) to $45 a month for unlimited use. All told, a Palm VIIx can set you back a whopping $1,000 in the first year alone.

Still, for busy executives who need a handheld that makes it easy to get everything from updated flight information to the address of the closest Starbucks with a few taps of the stylus, the Palm VIIx may be worth every penny.

A HANDHELD TO HOLD

If you put all five of these PDAs into a bag and drew one out blindfolded, it's a safe bet you'd be happy with your selection. They're all splendid traveling companions; in fact, we've selected three of them as Best Buys.

That said, certain models are more likely to please certain users. If you desire seamless synchronization with desktop applications such as Word, Excel, and Outlook—or you want a handheld that instantly doubles as an MP3 player—opt for the Casio Cassiopeia EM-500 or Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC. The iPaq has an edge in performance and overall style, making it perhaps the best Pocket PC around. Handspring's Visor Platinum gets the nod for being the best general-purpose Palm OS device, offering the simplicity and compatibility of that operating system matched with a fast processor and a wealth of cool Springboard accessories, including MP3 players. The Visor Prism, meanwhile, is Handspring's first rechargeable unit and boasts a beautiful color display, though it costs about $150 more than the Platinum.

The Palm VIIx rates high on the "wow" scale, coming closest to realizing the *Star Trek* vision of wireless communications. With a flip of its antenna, you can send and receive e-mail, or fetch useful tidbits of information from the Web via its PQAs, which ingeniously overcome the problem of inherently slow wireless connections. Plus, it has 8MB of RAM—four times the amount in the original Palm VII—so you can stock up on software, e-books, games, and more.

If you've avoided buying a handheld because you've been waiting for the technology to improve, wait no longer. Today's models not only will organize your life, but also keep you connected and entertained around the clock. ▼

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< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	8.0	9.0 BEST BUY	8.2 BEST BUY	8.0	8.2 BEST BUY
PRODUCT	Casio Cassiopeia EM-500	Compaq iPaq H3650 Pocket PC	Handspring Visor Platinum	Handspring Visor Prism	Palm VIIx
COMPANY	Casio Dover, NJ 800-435-7732, 973-442-5707 *www.casio-usa.com*	Compaq Computer Corp. Houston, TX 800-282-6672, 281-370-0670 *www.compaq.com*	Handspring Mountain View, CA 888-565-9393, 650-230-5000 *www.handspring.com*	Handspring Mountain View, CA 888-565-9393, 650-230-5000 *www.handspring.com*	Palm Santa Clara, CA 800-881-7256, 408-326-9000 *www.palm.com*
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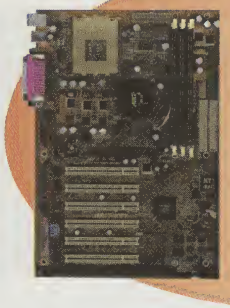
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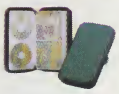
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LPRA2100...Apollo, 300x300 dpi, USB..**$49.95**
LPRA2250...Apollo, 300x300 dpi,.....**$84.95**

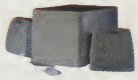
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NECCTXNM...3Com, 3CSM905B.....**$37.95**
NECI8460B.....Intel, I8460B.....**$36.95**

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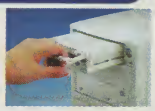
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GZP100.....Int drive, Panasonic.....**$36.99**
GZIPP.....Int drive, Panasonic.....**$49.99**
GZ100C.....Cartridge, IOmega.....**$7.49**
. **250MB**
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. **Inner Tray for Zip & LS120 Drive**
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SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PORTABLE DIGITAL-MUSIC PLAYERS



by Don Labriola

Digital music is hot. Myriad manufacturers, including heavy hitters like Creative Technology, Sony, and Philips, are selling more than 100 models of portable music players, and tens of millions of Napster-savvy users spend their free time scouring the Net for downloads. Research giant Cahners In-Stat Group reports that worldwide shipments of digital-music players more than quadrupled—from 700,000 units in 1999 to 2.9 million last year—with annual revenues skyrocketing from $126 million to $629 million—a figure that's expected to nearly double again next year.

Until recently, most of the people listening to digital-music files were young fans with the gumption and technical know-how to download MP3s from the Internet or rip them from audio CDs. Twenty-somethings with expendable income were the primary market for portable playback devices, which typically run $150 to $450.

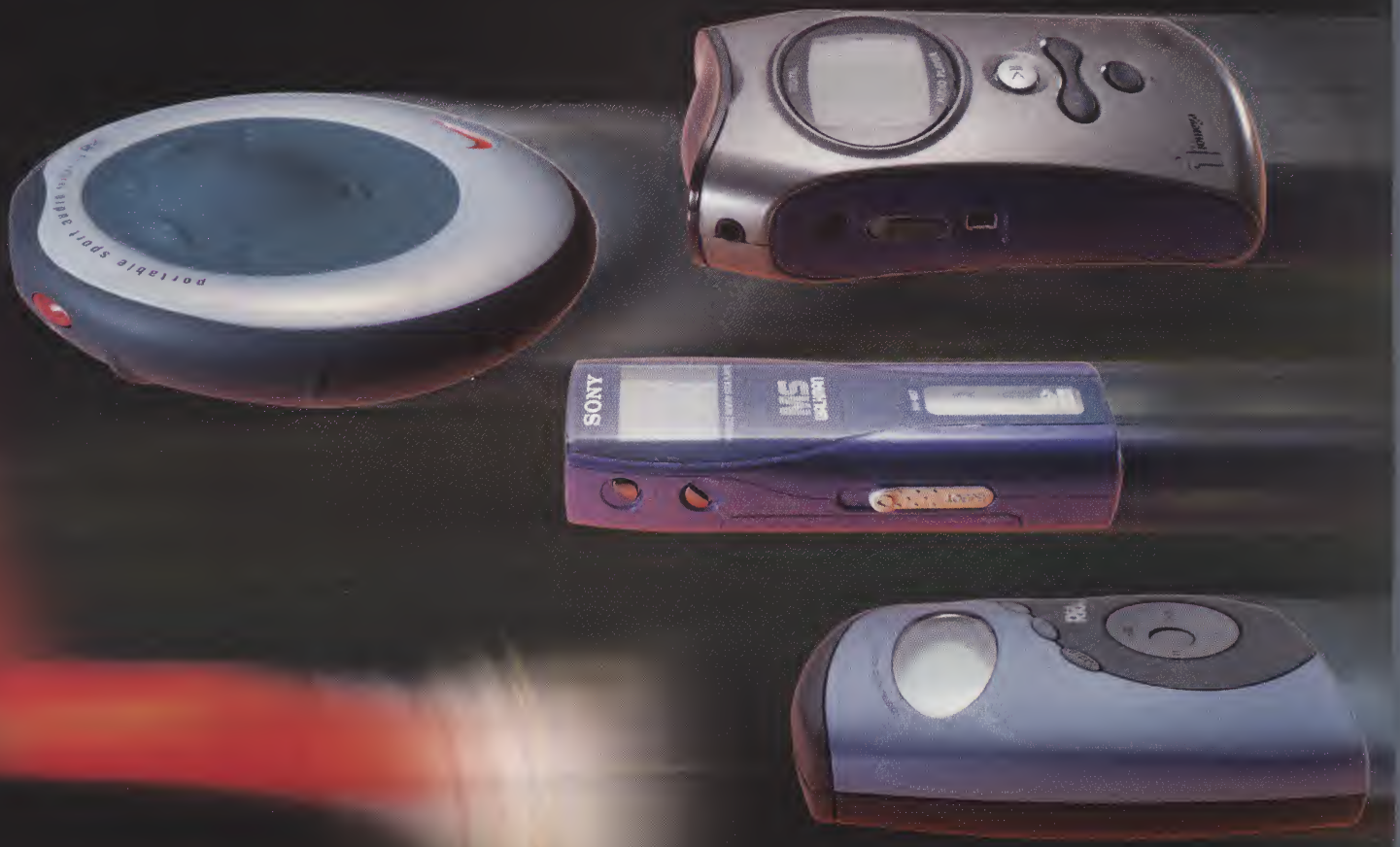
With the advent of third-generation players that are smaller, easier to use, and capable of storing more music, the market is now expanding to include children, seniors, commuters, athletes, road warriors, and anyone else interested in Walkman-style personal entertainment devices—the same people who buy portable cassette and CD players.

Another potential catalyst for growth is the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) copyright-protection scheme, which is expected to make digital-media distribution more attractive to mass-market content providers like major record labels. This technology is already being incorporated into newer, more efficient recording standards that deliver better sound quality and generate smaller files than MP3.

Digital-music players come in an immense variety of shapes and sizes. Finding one with the right features and functions may take some research, but this guide short-lists the critical points of comparison so you can speed up your search.

Take-Along Tunes

The Play-by-Play on Buying a Portable Digital-Music Player



Keep Rockin'

Almost all digital-music players can play MP3 files, but before long, that may not be enough. Competing formats such as Microsoft's Windows Media Audio (WMA), Sony's ATRAC3, the MPEG-2-derived AAC algorithm, and Yamaha's VQF are all touted to produce better sound or smaller files.

To further complicate matters, MP3 files now come in both standard-bit-rate (SBR) and the newer, more efficient variable-bit-rate (VBR) formats. If you expect to be downloading many VBR MP3s, look for a player that supports both formats, such as Pine Technology's D'music SM-200C ($200, ***www.pineusa.com***). You'll also want a unit that can read extended ID3v2 tags, which are strings of text embedded into newer MP3 files that store identifying information such as song titles and artist names.

Most of the newer non-MP3 audio formats support the SDMI specification, which allows copyright owners to track and control how recordings are distributed. Although SDMI is hardly a selling point for the online MP3 community, it's likely to become an intrinsic part of any distribution system embraced by the recording industry. Regardless of your personal feelings about SDMI, it makes sense to buy a player that supports it. Doing so won't prevent you from downloading, ripping, or playing standard MP3s, but it may someday let you play SDMI-protected files, should they become as ubiquitous as many content providers hope.

Storing Your Songs

The way a digital-music player stores data is critical. The most common option is solid-state flash memory, which, although relatively expensive, offers reliable, skip-free playback and fast downloads.

Nonremovable RAM is the flash technology of choice in very small players such as Sony's soon-to-be-available NW-S4 Sports Network Walkman ($350, ***www.sony.com***), which crams 64MB into a package the size of a fat fountain pen. If you need expansion capabilities, consider one of the slightly larger players equipped with one or two slots for SmartMedia, CompactFlash, MultiMediaCard, or Memory Stick flash cards.

A less expensive option is the latest generation of removable micro-disk drives, such as Iomega's PocketZip (formerly Clik) drive, which stores 40MB of data on low-cost 2-inch media, or IBM's 340MB, 1-inch Microdrive. Iomega's HipZip ($299.95, ***www.iomega.com***) is already shipping with an integrated PocketZip drive, and newer models in Sonicblue's Rio line ***(www.riohome.com)*** are expected to soon accept snap-on Microdrive modules.



These players use a mix of memory types. Clockwise from top left: Creative Nomad II MG, Iomega HipZip, Sony NW-MS7 Memory Stick Walkman.

Yet another option is Sony's 2.6-inch MiniDisc, which is integrated into the company's lightweight MiniDisc Walkman ($300, ***www.sony.com***). Available in 60-, 74-, and 80-minute capacities, MiniDiscs provide sound quality approaching that of an audio CD for a mere $2 to $3 per disc.

Playing With the Big Boys

If you want a player that can store hundreds of hours of music, consider a larger unit equipped with a full-size fixed hard drive, such as Creative Technology's feature-packed 6GB Nomad Jukebox ($499.99, ***www.nomadworld.com***).

Another high-capacity option is an MP3 CD player. Many of these can play audio CDs in addition to low-cost CD-R and CD-RW discs that contain digital-audio files. Not every model can handle all three types of media, but one that does is Philips' eXpanium 103 (approximately $200, ***www.expanium.philips.com***), which also features 200-second shock buffering, an important feature that helps disc-based units avoid skipping when jarred.

If you're interested in a handheld device that does more than play music, consider one of the Pocket PC systems sold by companies such as Compaq, Casio, and Hewlett-Packard (approximately $500 to $600, ***www.microsoft.com/mobile/pocketpc/bguide/default.asp***). Based on Microsoft's Windows-like Pocket PC operating system, these handheld computers combine PDA and multimedia capabilities in a package slightly smaller than a portable CD player. Features vary considerably, but nearly all have a 320x240 color display, a "lite" version of Microsoft Office, an e-book reader, a mini-browser, e-mail capabilities, and an expansion slot.

The Ins and Outs

Another key consideration when choosing a portable music device is its I/O capabilities. Virtually all players download music files from your PC through a parallel or USB interface. Many USB ports can move a 4MB song in just a few seconds, but others aren't even as fast as the quickest parallel interfaces. A few vendors publish throughput figures in their spec sheets, but to get a better idea of a player's transfer rate, arrange

Parade of Players

If reading this article gives you the impression that digital-music players offer stunning diversity, you don't know the half of it. Here's a list of a few even more exotic form factors.

They Look Like	Cassette Tapes	Digital Cameras	Mobile Telephones	Home Stereos	Boom Boxes	Wristwatches	PDAs
The Details	You insert these players into a tape deck and control them with a handheld remote.	All-in-one camera, music player, and audio recorder; doesn't match the capabilities of dedicated units, but costs less and is easier to carry than three devices	Combine cellular-phone, music-player, and wireless Web-browsing capabilities in one device	Stream music from your PC to your home stereo over a HomePNA phone-line network. Some models also store music on their own hard drive by downloading songs from the Net or ripping them from CD.	Combine AM/FM tuner, audio-CD player, amplified speakers, and multidisc MP3-CD player in a single luggable chassis	Tiny players that can be strapped to your wrist; handy for track athletes and cyclists	Offer PDA-class features such as phone books and calendars, or bring music-playback capabilities to the Handspring Visor PDA by *plugging into its* Springboard expansion slot
The Products	RomeMP3 Player (Rome II UP-322); $239.95 with 64MB ***www.romemp3.com***	Pretec DC-530 4-in-1 Digital Camera; $199 ***www.pretec.com***	Samsung Uproar; $399 in addition to monthly Sprint PCS service ***www.samsungusa.com***	Voyetra Turtle Beach AudioTron; $399 ***www.audiotron.net*** Sonicblue Rio Digital Home Receiver; $299 ***www.riohome.com***	RCA RS2538 MP3 Five-Disc Audio System; $399 ***www.rca.com***	Casio WMP-1V Wrist Audio Player; $249 ***www.casio.com***	Sensory Science rave:mp 2300; $299; ***www.ravemp.com*** InnoGear MiniJam; $249 with 64MB; ***www.innogear.com*** SoundsGood AudioPlayer; $269 ***www.good.com***

an in-store demo, or read reviews with hands-on testing. (See *www.zdnet.com/audio.*)

You should also ask whether the player connects directly to an I/O port or must be placed in a cradle attached to your computer. Cradles add a bit to your purchase cost, but if you'll be downloading from only one machine, they can free you from having to repeatedly plug a cable into the back of your system. Avoid parallel-port cradles that lack pass-through connectors.

Most players provide no way to upload stored files back to your computer, although many employ removable discs or flash cards that can be read by your PC with the right adapter. Some devices include a line-out jack that can be connected to external speakers or a sound-card input, and Creative's Nomad Jukebox even offers four-channel output, as well as stereo line-in capabilities that let you record analog audio signals.

Top 7 Digital-Music Formats

Codec	AAC (Advanced Audio Coding)	ATRAC3 (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding 3)	MP3 (MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3)	RealAudio 8	VQF (Vector Quantization Format)	WAV	WMA (Windows Media Audio)
The Details	Derived from the ISO's MPEG-2 standard. More efficient than MP3, but uses greater CPU resources. Licensing managed by Dolby Laboratories	Sony standard based on the company's ATRAC MiniDisc compression scheme	The most popular of today's digital-music standards. Does not support any copy-right-protection schemes	Primarily used by RealNetworks' RealPlayer to stream audio from the Net	High-quality Yamaha codec with multiple-operating-system support	Windows' uncompressed sound-file format. Playable on virtually any late-model PC, but consumes about 10 times the disk space of a 128Kbps MP3 file	Microsoft's answer to MP3. Reportedly generates files that are roughly half the size (or twice the encoding rate) of MP3
Supported By	iPaq Personal Audio Player PA-1 and others	Sony Network Walkman NW-MS9 and others	Virtually all portable digital music players	RCA Lyra2 and others	Currently available only in software players	Creative Nomad Jukebox	Pocket PCs and many other portable players
For More Info	*www.mpeg.org*	*www.sony.com*	*www.mp3.com, www.mpeg.org*	*www.realaudio.com*	*www.vqf.com*	*www.microsoft.com*	*www.windowsmedia.com*



Audio enhancements such as the Creative Nomad Jukebox's EAX and the Philips eXpanium 103's bass-boost function help these small devices deliver big sound.

Karaoke Players	Portable Players for Your Car
Incorporate karaoke functions such as the ability to erase vocals from music files, display lyrics, and simultaneously play a song and record vocals	Bundled with car-friendly accessories such as cigarette-lighter power adapters, dash/windshield/visor mounts, voice interface, cassette adapters, or large, easy-to-read, backlit displays
First International Digital irock MP3K; $279.99 *www.fidinc.com*	i2Go eGo; $219 with 32MB CompactFlash card *www.i2go.com*
	Philips eXpanium 103; $200 *www.expanium.philips.com*

The Look and Feel

Size and weight are certainly important when choosing a device that you'll be clipping to your belt. But they're not the only aesthetic factors you should consider. A hand-friendly form factor can make a difference, as it does with Nike's comfortably oval-shaped psa play 120 (approximately $200, *www.nike.com*). The physical abuse that most portable players must endure also makes it worth shopping for a model packaged in a rugged but lightweight aluminum, magnesium, or titanium case.

Controls should be laid out intuitively enough to allow joggers and cyclists to operate them by touch alone. The most commonly used controls should be the largest, and the best players employ an easy-to-use five-way jog button that combines Play/Pause, Stop, Forward, Reverse, and Menu Select into one control.

You'll want a multiline display that can scroll long filenames and display more extensive file and player-status information. Backlighting is also useful for dim viewing conditions, although using it too often can quickly deplete batteries. Consider a unit like Sonicblue's Rio 600, which automatically turns off backlighting after a specified number of seconds.

In Your Ear

You may be surprised to hear that not all digital-music players sound the same. The most important factor is often the player's bundled earphones, which can significantly affect maximum volume levels, bass response, and overall clarity. But simply adding a pair of higher-quality phones won't necessarily correct all these sonic deficiencies. Players equipped with underpowered 2-milliwatt (mw) amplifiers won't match the bass output and overall volume levels of 100-mw models, no matter how good the headphones.

Sound-enhancement features, such as the Philips eXpanium line's dynamic bass-boost function, Creative's EAX ambience and spatialization effects, a multiband equalizer, or even simple bass/treble tone controls, can improve sound considerably. But be aware that boosting a player's low end by almost any means will diminish battery life.

The Next Big Thing: Spatialized MP3

Digital-music players may have come a long way, but many still fail to match the sound quality of even a mediocre home stereo. Spatializer Audio Laboratories aims to change all that with its Digital OntheGo FX algorithm, which the company expects to be incorporated into a significant portion of all the handheld players shipped by the end of the year.

OntheGo FX is based on psychoacoustic techniques that fool your ear into thinking it hears sounds that your speakers aren't actually producing. It includes a 3-D Stereo component that makes music appear to be coming from widely spaced sources much larger than your earphones. It also boasts a Virtual Bass Enhancement (ViBE) function that makes bass output seem louder without requiring additional amplifier power—a neat trick for devices that run on limited battery power. Together, these features produce a broader, more spacious sound field with a pulsing, percussive low end.

OntheGo FX will appear in the second half of this year, and players that incorporate the technology will display the Spatializer logo on their packaging. For more info, go to *www.spatializer.com.*

For More Info

If you're interested in...	Check out...
An easy-to-read introduction to digital music	*MP3 for Dummies* by Andy Rathbone (Hungry Minds, $19.99)
A more advanced text about digital-music technology	*MP3: The Definitive Guide* by Scot Hacker (O'Reilly & Associates, $29.95)
Miscellaneous online music resources	***www.mp3.com***
Downloadable content	***www.napster.com, www.gnutella.wego.com, alt.binaries.sounds.mp3*** (newsgroup)
Digital-music copyright issues	***www.sdmi.org, www.riaa.org***
WMA-compatible players and Pocket PC devices	***www.windowsmedia.com/mediaguide/cooldevices/cooldevices.asp***
Palm-compatible players	***www.palmgear.com***
MPEG-related codecs like AAC, MP2, and MP3	***www.mpeg.org***
VQF	***www.vqf.com***

Despite these caveats, many of the latest digital-music players produce far better sound than their predecessors do, sometimes even rivaling the output quality of portable CD players. But many manufacturers omit wattage figures from their spec sheets, and you can't tell much about the quality of a pair of earphones without actually listening to them. Even though it can be a hassle, the only way to be sure about how a player sounds is to audition it in the store.

Essential Extras

Every player should include core features like an equalizer, a playlist that defines song-playback order, and play-mode options that let you repeat one track, repeat all tracks, or select songs randomly. Better models also offer voice-recording capabilities, support for several operating systems, and upgradable firmware, which lets you download new features as they become available.

Presets can make a player easier to use by letting you save favorite settings and reload them with just a few clicks. In addition to playlist and equalizer presets, models equipped with a radio tuner should let you store the dial positions and call letters of favorite stations.

You should also pay attention to power options. Many models use AA batteries, but your first choice should be a unit bundled with rechargeable NiMH or lithium-ion batteries and a charger. An AC power cord is also handy when downloading files or listening at home.

Finally, every player should include a generous bundle of software and accessories. In addition to standard gear such as USB cables, batteries, and earphones, you'll want a carrying case or strap, a microphone (if the unit can record voice), an AC or cigarette-lighter adapter, and music-player and visualization software. If the model you select uses removable flash-memory cards, be sure that one is included.

The Best Is Yet to Come

If you think today's third-generation players are impressive, you ain't seen nothing yet. Not only will prices drop and storage capacity rise over the next few years, you can also expect to see increasing numbers of converged devices that combine music playback with the functions of a PDA, Internet appliance, or mobile telephone. Players will be routinely packaged into home stereos and auto sound systems, and Bluetooth-enabled devices may even provide wireless communications with remote music servers.

The revolution has only begun. ▼

Digital-Music Marvels

4 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

- **MusicMatch Jukebox** — Create MP3 files, play music, and more.
- **Napster** — Locate and download MP3 and WMA files.
- **RealJukebox** — Acquire, play, record, and manage digital music.
- **Windows Media Player** — Find, organize, and play digital media.

ZDNet DOWNLOAD THEM NOW FROM *computershopper.zdnet.com/downloads*



Look and feel are half the appeal—consider the Nike psa play 120 and Sonicblue Rio 600.

Top 7 Software Players

Choosing a portable music player is only half the battle. You need software that will convert CD files, locate and download songs, and transfer stored music from your hard drive to your hardware player. Here's a quick roundup of the most popular offerings.

Player	FreeAmp	MusicMatch Jukebox 6.0	RealPlayer 8	SoundJam MP 2.5.1	Winamp 2.7	Windows Media Player 7	X MultiMedia System
Vendor	Sponsored by EMusic.com	MusicMatch	RealNetworks	Casady & Greene	Nullsoft	Microsoft Corp.	4Front Technologies
Will Play	MP3 and other MPEG-encoded files	MP2, MP3, MPG, WAV, WMA, VQF (with plug-in), SAF	AIFF, ATRAC3, AU, AVI, Flash, GIF, JPEG, animated JPEG, Liquid Audio, MP3, MIDI, MPEG, RealAudio 8, RealVideo, RichFX, Vivo	AIFF, MOD, MP2, MP3, NVF, Q-Design, QuickTime, SND, Sound Designer, WAV	AS/ASFS, CDA, MP2, MP3, MOD, MIDI, WAV, WMA	AIFF, AU, AVI, MIDI, MP3 (playback only), MPEG, RMI, VOD, WAV, WMA	MP3, MOD, VQF, WAV, and others with appropriate plug-ins
Notable Features	Open-source player that supports a wide range of operating systems	Lots of skins and visualizations; radio tuner; CD-R/CD-RW burning	Large selection of audio, video, and graphics formats; superb video quality; Internet radio; search engine; 3D effects	Lots of skins and visualizations; portable-player interface; plug-in architecture; ID3 editor; karaoke; alarm clock; 10-band equalizer	Excellent source of plug-ins; spectrum analyzer and oscilloscope; 10-band equalizer; mini-browser	Integrated audio/video player interface; lots of skins and visualizations; Internet radio; portable digital-music player interface; CD burner	Formerly known as x11amp; compatible with most Winamp skins, hotkeys, and functions; offers a similar plug-in architecture
Windows	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Mac	No (under development)	Limited	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Linux	Yes (BeOS, AlphaNT, and Solaris under development)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes (also other Unix systems)
Price	Free, open source	Free ($19.99 upgrade to MusicMatch Jukebox Plus)	Free ($29.99 upgrade to RealPlayer 8 Plus)	SoundJam MP: Free, full feature set for 14 days and unrestricted playback. MP Plus: $39.95, full feature set	Free	Free	Free, open source
URL	***www.freeamp.org***	***www.musicmatch.com***	***www.real.com***	***www.soundjam.com***	***www.winamp.com***	***www.windowsmedia.com***	***www.xmms.org***

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PT-L501U Ultra-Portable SVGA Projector

Simple, Smart, Stylish and only 8.4 Pounds

Stylishly designed and lightweight at 8.4 pounds, the PT-L501U delivers 1,100 ANSI lumens of brightness with SVGA resolution (SXGA maximum). It's equipped with an extra short-throw lens that shortens the necessary projection distance by 25%. Its one-touch Auto Setup with digital keystone correction makes it simple to use. The PT-L501U picture quality with stereo audio is exceptional and it can display HDTV images.
Suggested List Price: $4,995



PT-L511U Ultra-Portable SVGA Projector

1,500 ANSI Lumens Bright, Feature-Rich Unit

The value-packed, ultra-portable PT-L511U projector provides 1,500 ANSI lumens of brightness, SVGA (UXGA maximum) resolution, extra short-throw lens and highly attractive styling. The DTV-ready projector also offers two-mode lamp operation, 9X digital zoom, one-touch Auto Setup with digital keystone correction, ultra-quiet cooling fan, 10-bit digital gamma correction, card-type remote control and full 16.7 million color palette. For greater connection flexibility, two RGB input terminals are provided for connecting two computers at the same time.
Suggested List Price: $5,995



PT-L711U Ultra-Portable XGA Projector

1,400 ANSI Lumens Bright, Cutting Edge Technology

The ultra-portable PT-L711U XGA projector with Micro Lens Array delivers 1,400 ANSI lumens of brightness, and a 300:1 contrast ratio. Offering a refined, super sleek design and weighing only 8.4 pounds, the projector provides presenter-pleasing benefits, such as the world's shortest focal lens in an ultra-portable unit; "Auto-Everything" Setup with digital keystone adjustment; and exceptional video quality featuring a unique Digital Cinema Reality™ circuit for film-based video contents. Full-featured but small and light, it can display vibrant images in 1024 x 768 true XGA resolution and maximum SXGA (1280 x 1024) resolution. The video-enhanced projector is HDTV compatible, automatically resizing 1080i and 720p images for 16:9 wide-aspect display; 480p, 480i and 625i component video signals and S-Video can also be displayed in either 4:3 or 16:9. The unit offers broad compatibility ranging from PAL, PAL-M, PAL-N, PAL 60, SECAM, NTSC and M-NTSC.
Suggested List Price: $7,995



PT-L759U Portable XGA Projector

One-Touch Auto Setup, 2,500 ANSI Lumens

The sleek PT-L759U portable XGA LCD projector with Micro Lens Array delivers exceptional brightness of 2,500 ANSI lumens. The 13-pound projector displays a native resolution of 1024 x 768 XGA, with a maximum resolution of 1600 x 1200 UXGA. This unit features a high contrast ratio of more than 250:1, and a remarkably high center-to-corner uniformity ratio of 95%. The PT-L759U features one-touch Auto Setup to tune and adjust the image for optimal viewing. This projector is compatible with PC and Macintosh computers; accepts NTSC, M-NTSC, SECAM, PAL, PAL-M and PAL-N video signals and is capable of front, rear, desktop or ceiling mount projection on screens ranging in size from 20"- 300". Additional features include a digital zoom, two sets of RGB inputs, USB input, S-video compatibility, selectable 6-language on-screen menu, status code indicator, security lock system, warning indication for lamp replacement, Universal AC power supply, RS-232C computer interface, mute/freeze for video and RGB, and a detachable carrying handle.
Suggested List Price: $10,995



PT-LC50U Micro-Portable SVGA Projector

At 5.5 Pounds, You'll Want to Take It Everywhere!

At only 5.5 pounds, this ultra-sleek Panasonic projector travels wherever you do, yet it is so automatic (with one-touch Auto Setup and digital keystone correction) that the only thing you need to worry about is making sure it's plugged in. The highly-affordable PT-LC50U offers exceptional SVGA resolution (SXGA maximum). It's loaded with special benefits, including a detachable swivel stand, 5X Digital Zoom, and Manual Focus.
Suggested List Price: $2,995



PT-L701SDU XGA SD Memory Projector

World's First Memory Unit SD™

The PT-L701SDU ultra-portable XGA projector comes complete with a postage stamp-sized 16MB SD (Secure Digital) Memory Card, a PC card adapter, and software that converts BMP or TIFF images and entire Microsoft PowerPoint files into JPEG images, allowing PC-free as well as unattended, continuous-play presentations. As the world's first SD Memory model, Panasonic's PT-L701SDU offers outstanding presentation functions, including Auto Slide Show, which automatically shows the data from an SD Memory Card in succession; Capture, which captures and saves the displayed screen directly onto an SD Memory Card in JPEG file format; and Thumbnail Display, which provides an index-type display of all the images on an SD Memory Card, and lets the user change the image sequence.

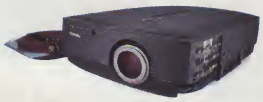
The PT-L701SDU offers exceptional automatic features including one-touch Auto-Everything Setup and digital keystone correction.
Suggested List Price: $6,995



PT-L701U Ultra-Portable XGA Projector

"Auto-Everything" Setup with Digital Keystone Correction

The PT-L701U XGA is an unbeatable value, delivering 1,000 ANSI lumens with a high contrast ratio of 350:1. It's integrated with the most advanced DSP technology, including the industry's first Digital Cinema Reality circuit, 10-bit Digital Gamma Correction, an Intelligent Image Resizing circuit, and a 3-D digital comb filter. At 8.4 pounds light, this projector offers user-friendly features like one-touch "Auto Everything" Setup, automatic keystone correction and auto input selection, allowing a user to automatically tune and adjust an image for optimal viewing. A newly-developed built-in gravity sensor detects the projector angle relative to the floor, then corrects for keystone distortion accordingly.
Suggested List Price: $6,495



PT-L797U Fixed-Install XGA Projectors

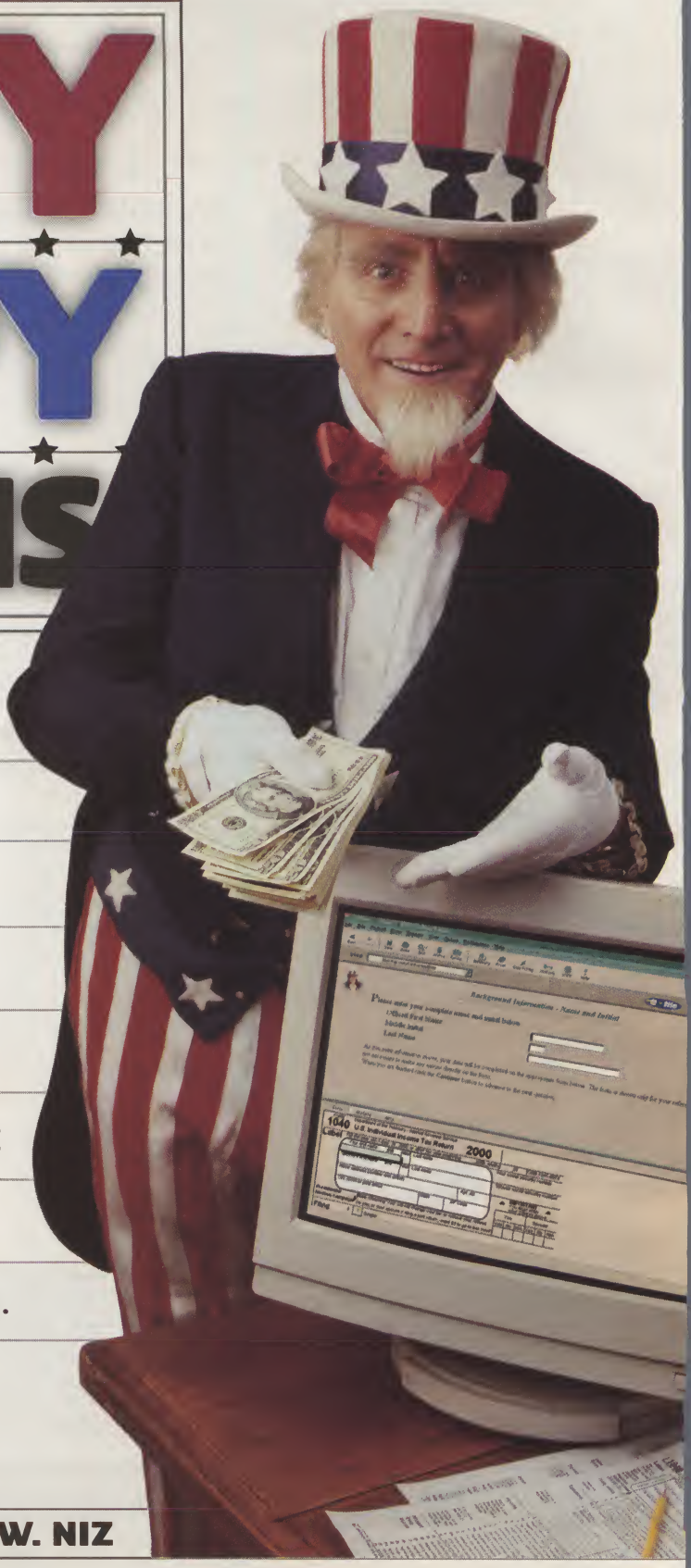
Delivers 2,700 ANSI Lumens, BriteOptic™ Dual Lamp System

The PT-L797U "X" Series of ultra-bright XGA projectors feature Panasonic's exclusive BriteOptic™ built-in dual lamp system to deliver stunning images, text and graphics for demanding computer and video applications. The three "X" Series models - the PT-L797PXU (2,700 ANSI lumens), PT-797VXU (2,000 ANSI lumens) and PT-L797PXUL (2,700 ANSI lumens but without lens) - offer exceptional brightness and provide crystal-clear images in any setting, from classrooms and conference rooms to auditoriums and church halls. The PT-L797U's exclusive BriteOptic dual-lamp system delivers the power of two high-intensity light sources through a high-precision prism. Power-saving single-lamp operation is available for a projection-friendly environment, while two-lamp operation is ideal when high brightness is needed.
PT-L797PXU: Suggested List Price: $13,495
PT-L797VXU: Suggested List Price: $10,995
PT-L797PXUL: Suggested List Price: $13,395

All Panasonic LCD projectors are covered by a 3-year warranty and "ZipIt" exchange program.

TAX-PREPARATION SOFTWARE

MANY HAPPY RETURNS



These enhanced tax-prep packages help you get the refund you deserve.

BY XAVIER W. NIZ

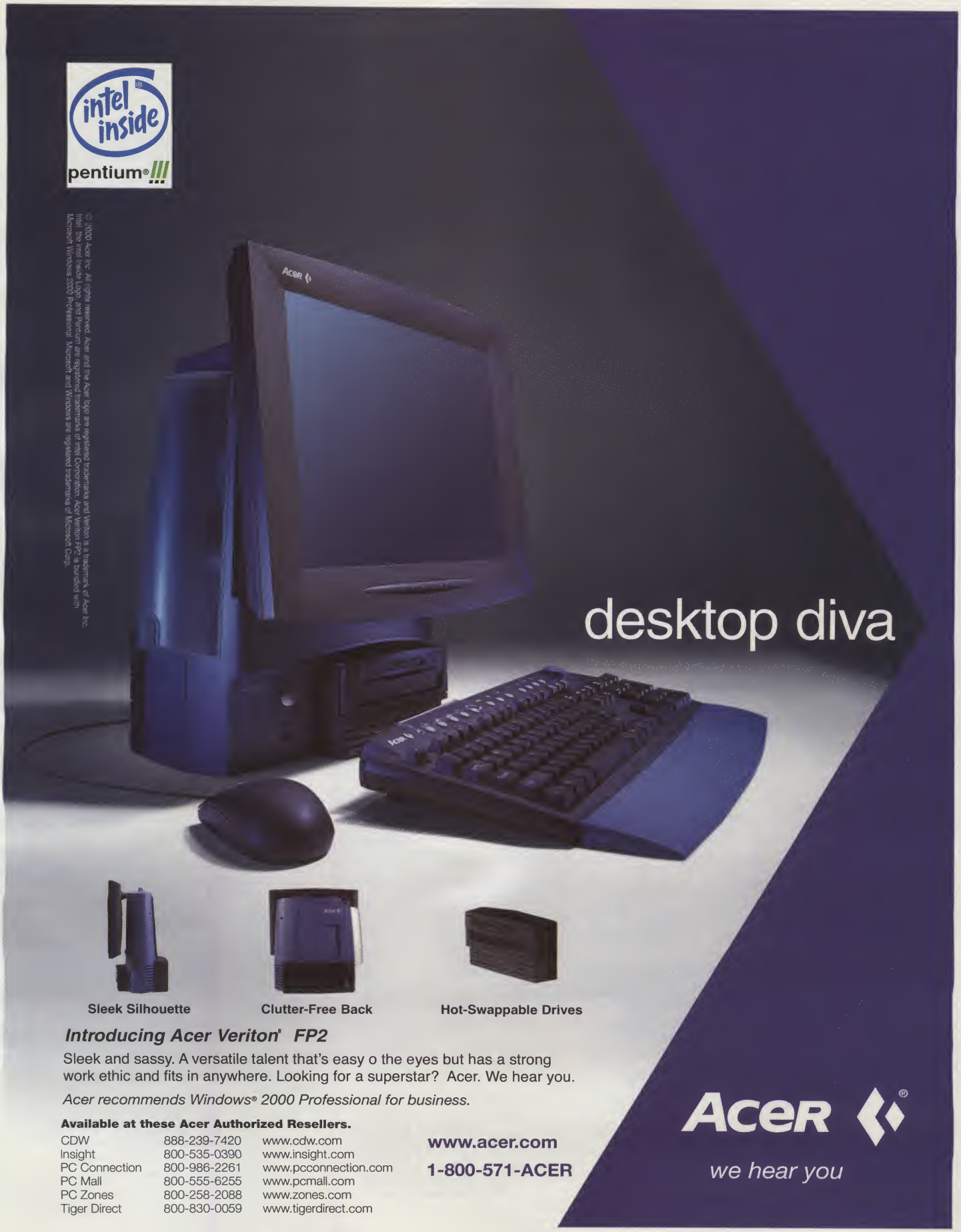
If you're one of the millions who live in dread as April 15 approaches, get over it. Sure, paying taxes is unavoidable, but the associated headaches and aggravation are not. Today's tax software turns this tedious tradition into a simple, quick, and even rewarding process.

The underlying premise of all tax software is that before people can do their own taxes, tax forms must be translated into plain English. Therefore, programs in this niche use an easy-to-understand interview process to gather your data. Many of the top programs add to the mix tips and tricks to help you save money.

The three tax programs reviewed here—Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe From H&R Block, Quicken TurboTax Deluxe, and TaxAct 2000 Deluxe—are the best of the bunch. All share a similar Q&A approach. All three also guarantee to pay any penalties incurred as a result of their calculation errors. Plus, you can electronically file your taxes with any one of these programs.

That said, you'll find some shades of difference between these top contenders. By examining these differences, this roundup will help you determine which one best suits your comfort level and needs.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MILNE



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TAX-PREPARATION SOFTWARE

KIPLINGER TAXCUT DELUXE FROM H&R BLOCK

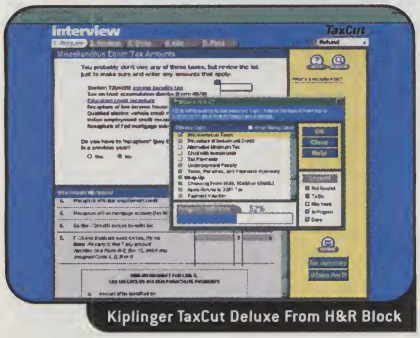
EDITORS' RATING **8.4**

EASE OF USE	8	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	8
FEATURES	9	VALUE	9
PERFORMANCE	8		

PROS: Exhaustive tax help; improved interface and navigation
CONS: Overly complex language; import function still too complicated

Industry mogul H&R Block has been doing taxes forever. Now that the company has poured its years of experience into Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe, the result is an authoritative, consumer-friendly package.

First-time users will appreciate many of the changes H&R Block has made to the program. TaxCut's interface has been streamlined so that it's easier to navigate and understand. Plus, TaxCut now uses a simplified interview format to organize your information based on answers to simply worded questions. Once you begin to enter data into the program, TaxCut splits the screen between the interview questions and the



Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe From H&R Block

actual tax form. You can see where the information is being entered, and even opt to enter it directly into the form itself.

Completing your tax return in TaxCut takes five steps: Prepare, Review, State, File, and Plan. You can navigate among these steps using forward and back buttons at the bottom of the main window. You can also navigate the program using the new Where Am I? button. Clicking on this button gives you an overview of the entire interview process, and lets you assess your progress or move to a different location within the program.

This year, TaxCut lets you import information from older versions of TaxCut, TurboTax, and TaxSaver, as well as from personal-finance software such as Microsoft Money and Quicken. (In practice, the import function did not work as seamlessly as it was supposed to.) Once you're ready to file your return, the software lets you pay your tax bill with any major credit card. And TaxCut still makes your refund available instantly through loans from H&R Block.

Unfortunately, TaxCut's exhaustive resources come at a price—the language can get confusing at times, and it takes significantly longer to complete your taxes using this program. At $19.95, however, TaxCut is cheaper than TurboTax, and includes one free electronic filing and a mail-in rebate for one state filing. If you value depth of information over ease of use, Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe is a good choice.

QUICKEN TURBOTAX DELUXE

EDITORS' RATING **9.0**

EASE OF USE	9	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	9
FEATURES	9	VALUE	9
PERFORMANCE	9		

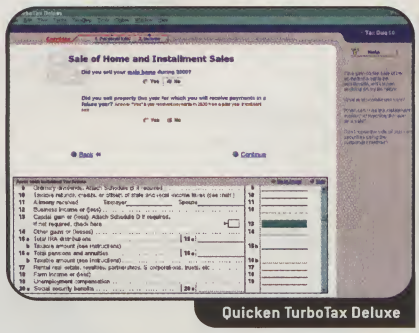
PROS: Helpful advice; clear language; intuitive interface
CONS: Overly simplistic at times

ZDNet BEST BUY

TurboTax Deluxe has long been the most popular tax software, and this year should prove no exception. With its easy-to-use interface and excellent help resources, TurboTax makes filing simple as can be.

Like TaxCut, TurboTax relies on a user-friendly interview format to gather your tax information. TurboTax has nine steps: Personal Info, Income, Deductions, Taxes/Credit, Miscellaneous, Final Review, State Taxes, Print and File, and Planning. At any time during the Q&A process you can split the screen and see the actual tax form you're working on, and opt to enter information directly into the form. Navigate the program via the EasyStep Navigator, which lists all the steps in a directory tree and places check marks next to those you've completed. When you finish entering information, TurboTax checks for errors and runs a series of reviews. These include a deduction finder, audit alerts, comparisons to U.S averages, and suggestions on how to reduce future taxes.

TurboTax emphasizes convenience. You can seamlessly import financial information from Quicken, QuickBooks, and Microsoft Money. Plus, new this year is an Automated Tax Return feature, which allows you to electronically import your W-2 and 1099 tax information into the program. If you get stuck at any point, the help function provides tax tips, FAQs, government instructions, IRS publications, a video library, and, for an additional fee, live tax help. TurboTax even gets the little things right. The program automatically formats the data you enter, and after you file, gives you the option of instantly uninstalling the program from your hard drive.



Quicken TurboTax Deluxe

At $39.95 (before a $10 rebate), TurboTax is the most expensive package in this group. However, it does include one free electronic filing and one free state product. For an additional fee, TurboTax lets you get a loan on your anticipated refund, so you can have access to your money as soon as possible.

Experienced filers might find the handholding in Quicken TurboTax Deluxe overly

ONLINE LIFELINES for TAX HELP

Nine Sites to Turn to and What They Offer

- **About.com's tax-planning page** ***(taxes.about.com/money/taxes)***
  Myriad resources, including income-tax glossary and links for all state departments of revenue
- **H&R Block** ***(www.hrblock.com/tax_center)***
  Tax tips, refund estimator, and handy checklist of documents and data you need
- **IRS** ***(www.irs.gov)***
  More than 720 forms, schedules, and publications; e-mail responses to questions
- **MSN MoneyCentral** ***(moneycentral.msn.com/tax/home.asp)***
  Great tips for reducing your tax bill this year and next
- **Quicken.com** ***(www.quicken.com/taxes)***
  Among the resources, a step-by-step guide for tax filing, and a calculator that identifies the optimum time, tax-wise, to unload stocks
- **1040.com** ***(www.1040.com)***
  Excellent source of information, news, and forms; will fax tax forms, instructions, and publications to you
- **The Tax Prophet** ***(www.taxprophet.com)***
  A useful collection of tax information, interactive tax applications, and columns from stalwart publications
- **TaxWeb** ***(www.taxweb.com)***
  Updates on federal, state, and local tax developments
- **Yahoo Tax Center** ***(taxes.yahoo.com)***
  Links to sites that can help with tax dilemmas, tips covering everything from charitable contributions to retirement planning, and trustworthy tax-related articles

For expanded coverage, go to our Reviews Hub at computershopper.zdnet.com/reviews

TAX-PREPARATION SOFTWARE

simplistic, but anyone who dreads doing their taxes will welcome the assistance.

TAXACT 2000 DELUXE

EDITORS' RATING 7.0

EASE OF USE	6	SERVICE AND SUPPORT	6
FEATURES	6	VALUE	9
PERFORMANCE	8		

PROS: Excellent performance; life events humanize tax issues
CONS: Complicated language; lack of detailed help function; expensive to file state returns

Looking to save some cash? Then you'll love 2nd Story Software's TaxAct 2000 Deluxe. The $9.95 price makes this program one of the least expensive around—at least until you take into account filing your state return.

The program proceeds through seven steps: Introduction, Life Events, Federal Q&A, State Q&A, Review, Filing, and Next Year. You navigate the browser-based interface using forward and back buttons. Several drop-down menus, as well as the program's toolbar, let you track your progress, as well as access each component of the program. TaxAct also relies on an interview format to help you enter information. It, too, splits the screen between the actual questions and the tax forms.

The interview process is straightforward and similar to that of the other tax programs. One big difference, however, is the Life Events step, which highlights the specific tax issues and forms associated with major life events, such as starting a new business, getting married, receiving an inheritance, and retirement.



TaxAct 2000 Deluxe

The Review step is another plus. This feature scans your return not just for errors, but also for potential problems and possible savings. Plus, the program uses an intuitive traffic-light interface to identify problems and make suggestions. A red light signifies a serious problem, yellow prompts you for additional information, and a green light identifies opportunities for additional tax savings.

TaxAct's biggest weakness is its limited help function. Though the Tax Advisor button launches a separate window with targeted tax tips, the answers can be sketchy. Also, the language of TaxAct's interview questions and many of its tax tips tends to be technical and complex.

TaxAct's $9.95 price doesn't factor in state-tax filing. The Deluxe program includes one free electronic filing, but the state forms cost $12.95 to download and an additional $4.95 to file electronically—no bargain.

Overall, TaxAct 2000 Deluxe has a lot to offer. If you're comfortable filing your own taxes and only need the program for your federal return, TaxAct is a great buy. But individuals who have little experience filing returns and need a more robust help function should bank on one of the other two.

TAXES MADE EZ

Any of these programs will help you file your taxes, and even the lowest-rated one is a big step above doing it by hand. As long as you're aware of the strengths and weaknesses of each program, none of the three will disappoint. An experienced filer, for instance, may appreciate TaxAct 2000 Deluxe's no-nonsense approach, and the sheer wealth of tax information in Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe will certainly appeal to some. But if you want to limit the time and trouble it takes to file your return, Quicken TurboTax Deluxe reigns. ▼

Tax Without Tears

4 ESSENTIAL ZDNET DOWNLOADS

ItsDeductible
Compile your charitable donations.

Microsoft Money 2000 Business and Personal Edition
Manage your personal and business finances.

Quicken 2001 Deluxe
Prepare your taxes without frustration.

TaxAct 2000
Complete your tax return with ease.

ZDNet DOWNLOAD THEM NOW FROM computershopper.zdnet.com/downloads

TAKING YOUR TAXES ONLINE

Online financial services keep growing in scope. First you could trade online, then bank online, and now you can pay bills online. But prepare your taxes? Yep. As of this tax season, you can do that, too.

Doing your taxes online definitely has advantages. You don't have to install any complicated software, and you get the convenience of anytime, anywhere access to your return. Concerns about security and privacy abound, however, and it has yet to be proven that people will be comfortable putting something as sensitive as their tax information on someone else's server.

That hasn't stopped the big tax-software companies from moving forward, though. All three of the packages reviewed here are available on the Web. Both 2nd Story Software ***(www.taxact.com)*** and Intuit ***(www.turbotax.com)*** offer mirror images of their respective software programs, TaxAct and Quicken TurboTax, online. H&R Block ***(www.hrblock.com)*** does not offer a Web version of Kiplinger TaxCut, but at press time the company had stated its intention to host a feature-rich tax-preparation service on its site for the 2000 tax year.

Wired taxpayers should also check out Tax and Accounting Software Corp.'s PrepTax.com ***(www.preptax.com)***, a preparation and electronic-filing solution designed for those who have experience preparing their returns. Though a little more rudimentary than other Internet-based solutions, PrepTax.com does a decent job. It uses the obligatory Q&A format and offers an optional form-based interface.

If the idea of working on your taxes online is unsettling, head to C&S Technologies' eSmartTax Web site ***(www.esmarttaxforms.com)***. This site lets you download all the forms you need as Microsoft Word templates. You can then fill them out at your leisure and return to the site only when, and if, you decide to electronically file your return.

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

EDITORS' RATING (Rated 1 to 10)	8.4	9.0 ZDNet BEST BUY	7.0
PRODUCT	Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe From H&R Block	Quicken TurboTax Deluxe	TaxAct 2000 Deluxe
COMPANY	H&R Block Kansas City, MO 800-457-9525 *www.taxcut.com*	Intuit Mountain View, CA 800-335-1348, 858-784-4000 *www.turbotax.com*	2nd Story Software Marion, IA 800-573-4287, 319-373-3600 *www.taxact.com*
REQUIRES	30MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT 4.0	45MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT	27MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, or NT
MFR. EST. PRICE	$19.95 34202	$39.95 (before $10 rebate, valid until October) 34203	$9.95 34204

00000 = ZDNet Price It!™ For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

SURFING FOR FREE STUFF

Something for Nothing

BY RICH CASTAGNA

Phone for free, save on books, or build a home page on the house. The Web offers an abundance of free stuff—but watch out for strings.

We often say the best things in life are free. But when someone wants to give us something for nothing, we're skeptical, suspicious, dubious, and just plain wary of getting ripped off. The Web is a source of all sorts of free things, but you do have to exercise some caution and common sense before you take what's up for grabs.

Internet services, software, music, information, and coupons are just some of the freebies you'll find online, if you know where to look. And in most cases, they'll cost you nothing more than your e-mail address and a little information. (Just be prepared for a new flow of junk e-mail.)

MUSIC FOR A SONG

Admit it—when we said "free," the prospect of snaring some free music probably came to mind. Napster's peer-to-peer file-access scheme (and those of Napster's cousins, such as Aimster and Gnutella) have made it possible for millions to share music stored in digital format on their hard drives. MP3, a highly compressed file format, made all this possible by squeezing songs down to manageable file sizes. (MP3 files are still fairly large, though, and downloading a few can easily clog a connection for you and everyone else on your network.)

Napster, however, has faced legal challenges from the music industry. Although it's legal to make limited copies of music you purchased for personal use, it's illegal to distribute copyrighted music to others.

Fortunately, you can still find plenty of legal, free MP3 files. You can use your favorite search engine to turn up dozens of free-music sites. (Try searching on "free music" AND MP3.) But first, try these popular sites.

Legally challenged **MP3.com** (***www.mp3.com***) still offers a large selection of free music. Apart from a few big names, such as David Bowie and Santana, the recording artists tend to be on the obscure side, but who knows, maybe your download will help propel The Muckrakers to stardom. The site's My.MP3.com provides a place for you to store your selected songs and create playlists.

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER


FREE!
NOVEL
10% Off
Coupon
Clean
ADMIT ONE
ADMIT ONE
ADMIT ONE
Your Website
search help about info email home
FREE
FREE
PhoneCard

Laws of the Land of the Free

Keep these rules in mind, and you can enjoy the free services and products you find on the Web without feeling like your life has been laid bare.

- Don't volunteer any information you feel is private. If you're not comfortable telling someone your birth date, for instance, don't. You can probably find a similar free product elsewhere.
- Don't give out your credit-card number until you're ready to buy something. A company needs your credit-card number for only one thing: to charge you for something. If you're just browsing and not buying, keep the card in your wallet.
- Don't sign up for everything in sight—be selective. This way, if you receive unwanted information, you'll know whom to contact to stop it.
- Don't give out your Social Security number. Unless it's a government agency, the company doesn't need it.
- Remember one thing: A Web site cannot tell if you're lying.
- Expect lots of e-mail. These companies are "giving" things away because they want to sell you something. They always ask for an e-mail address to send their offers and announcements. Don't use your business e-mail account. (Your boss won't appreciate it.) Sign up for a free e-mail service and use that address when you register for free stuff.

Yahoo Music (***music.yahoo.com***) lets you download singles from featured—and for-sale—albums. The site has a fairly extensive collection of MP3 files categorized alphabetically by the recording artist's (or group's) first name. The number of songs for each varies, from a single selection to more than a dozen.

If you just want to listen to music and don't want to worry about getting tangled in copyright strings, try tuning into one of the hundreds of radio stations nationwide that also broadcast over the Internet. The CNET Music Center ***(music.cnet.com)*** offers a categorized listing of Internet radio stations and will search on your selection. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

Shoutcast ***(www.shoutcast.com)*** has a list of about 20 stations along with descriptions of the kinds of music they play and the song currently playing. Finally, RadioTower.com ***(www.radiotower.com)*** makes it easy to hook up to more than 1,300 radio stations.

SURFING FOR FREE STUFF

PRICELESS PROGRAMS AND PICTURES

The Web is all about computers, so it should come as no surprise that software and other files are some of the best free stuff you can get. All you need is an Internet connection, a little patience, some space on your hard drive, and an up-to-date antivirus program.

The hundreds of thousands of free files and programs generally fall into three categories: freeware, shareware, and demoware, which roughly translate to no strings attached, strings that pluck at your conscience, and strings that snap back.

Freeware is free—you take it, and it's yours. Shareware includes noncommercial programs you can download and use; if you decide to keep them, you're on your honor to pay a small sum to the developer. Demoware is a limited version of a commercial vendor's application you try out for a period of time—usually between a week and 30 days—before it shuts itself down.

Before you download free programs, though, think safety first. Make sure the download site screens its offerings and gives each file an antivirus check. To be doubly safe, before launching or installing a downloaded file, run it through your own antivirus utility. If it receives a clean bill of health, you should still approach it with caution, because infected programs can do bad things to good systems. Before installing a newly acquired app, consider installing a safeguard utility such as PowerQuest Corp.'s SecondChance ***(www.powerquest.com/secondchance)***. Such programs can restore your system to its previous state if an unruly app runs amok.

At most download sites, software is free for the taking. Some ask for an e-mail address or demographic information. Just about every software vendor's site offers demo-software downloads, but many require you to supply information such as your name and e-mail address so they can follow up and try to sell you the full version.

For general-use freeware and shareware, **CNET Download.com** ***(download.cnet.com)*** and **ZDNet Downloads** ***(www.zdnet.com/downloads)*** have huge libraries of downloadable programs. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) You'll find user reviews for many of the programs, and statistics indicate the most popular downloads.

Many other download sites also feature ample libraries. **Free Downloads Center** (***www.freedownloadscenter.com***) hosts hundreds of programs, neatly organized into 12 categories, which break down further into more specific classifications. When you select a title, you're given its price (if applicable), its file size, a description, and its license information—that is, whether it's free or shareware. **ProgramFiles.com** (***www.programfiles.com***) claims to host more than 14,000 programs in 14 categories, which yield to even more detailed listings, and eventually to program descriptions that include screen shots and the download links. You can easily end up frittering away an afternoon just thumbing through its giant catalog.

Photos, drawings, and other artwork are also plentiful on the Web and, in most cases, they're yours for the asking. **The Clip Art Connection** ***(www.clipartconnection.com)*** offers thousands of images arranged in categories such as animals, food, people, and plants. When you choose a category, thumbnails show you the free images. The site also has a collection of animated GIFs. Always check if the site's images have any usage restrictions, though, before downloading.

AllFreeClipArt.com ***(www.allfreeclipart.com)*** is another great resource. All the images here are available without restrictions, so you can use them on personal or commercial sites. The collection is huge, and the individual pieces have a professional look.



Need to spice up your Web pages? Get all the art you need at AllFreeClipArt.com.

For some fancy typefaces to go along with your new art, direct your browser to **1001 Free Fonts** ***(www.1001freefonts.com)***. Click on a letter, and a bunch of free fonts that begin with that letter are displayed. With another click or two, you can download a PC- or Mac-compatible font. The letter-access method doesn't make it all that easy to browse, but if you're looking for a particular font it's a helpful shortcut.

SURFING FOR FREE STUFF

E-MAIL, HOSTING, AND WEB ACCESS

Just as the Internet has proved to be a fertile ground for finding free files, it's also a great place to find free Internet-related code.

If you're building your own Web site or renovating an aging home page, you can spiff up your site with many of the same gadgets and gizmos the big-time sites have. Drop in on **kresch.com** *(www.kresch.com/resources)* to pick up the code to add a counter or a news ticker to your site. In most cases, you just cut and paste the lines of code into your HTML to add the feature.

In some cases, adding a fancy feature may not be completely free, but still worth it. At **Everyone.net** *(www.everyone.net)*, you can pick up what you need to add sophisticated features such as a search engine, e-mail, bulletin boards, or chat rooms. If you want to add a community feature such as a discussion board, the code is free, but you have to display ads on your discussion-group pages.

Perhaps your Web site exists only in your mind. It can easily become a reality by tapping into one of the many sites that offer free hosting. You can build an informational site or an e-commerce site. If you're building a modest e-commerce site with only a handful of products, it can be free. The hosting company will display ads on your site. You can't choose the ads, but it's a small price to pay for a free Web store.

Bigstep.com *(www.bigstep.com)* is one of the most popular free hosting sites. You can build your store using online tools, spruce it up with your own graphic elements, and customize it with your own HTML. Step-by-step instructions make the site-building process easy, and you get a generous 12MB of space in which to work. Bigstep.com will even submit your site to search engines and provide usage statistics. The free ride ends when you enhance your site with a merchant account to accept credit-card sales, your own domain name, or a larger product catalog (more than 100 items).

Another popular free hosting service, **FreeMerchant.com** *(www.freemerchant.com)*, lets you build an e-store complete with shopping cart, tax calculator, and coupon creator, without shelling out a cent. Other niceties include traffic logs and a tool to import your database into a product catalog. Features you'll pay extra for include a merchant account, search-engine submission, and your own domain name.

Not ready to enter the wild world of Web commerce? Plenty of free stuff is still available even if you don't have—and maybe don't want—your own Web site.

You probably got an e-mail account when you signed up with your ISP for Internet access, but when you're away from your PC, getting to your mail may be difficult or impossible. Free e-mail services are Web-based and accessible from any browser, so they help you stay in touch wherever you are.

The best-known and most widely used free e-mail service is **Hotmail** *(www.hotmail.com)*. It offers many of the features you'll find in a client-based ISP mail account, but it also has some trade-offs. The key limitations are the modest 2MB of storage space and the maddeningly slow servers when the site is busy. You'll have to put up with ads on the site, along with a small blurb touting Hotmail at the end of each message.



Want to sell your wares online? Bigstep.com helps you build a Web site, then hosts it for free.

Hotmail lets you use Outlook Express as a mail client, so you can read and compose messages offline. But the bottom pane of the Outlook Express screen will continually display MSN ads—even after you've disconnected from the network.

Some security slipups have occurred recently at Hotmail and other free e-mail services. The holes were patched quickly, with little discernible damage. Still, if your mail is on the sensitive side or you rely on it to conduct your business, you may want to use a more secure system—typically, an account offered by a retail ISP.

The Web offers dozens of other free e-mail services you can access from your browser. Some even let you download mail to a POP3 e-mail client. Among the more popular services are USA.Net's **Net@ddress** *(www.netaddress.com)*, **Yahoo Mail** *(mail.yahoo.com)*, and **Eudora WebMail** *(www.eudoramail.com)*.

Signing up for the services usually requires giving up a substantial amount of personal information, including demographic data such as your age, sex, occupation, and ZIP code. Without any guarantees to the contrary, this information will likely be used to fill your e-mail inbox with all kinds of offers and promotions. It's also a good bet the free e-mail service will sell some of the data to other marketing organizations.

If free e-mail isn't enough, how about free Internet access? Instead of ponying up 20 or 25 bucks a month, you can log on for nothing. Too good to be true? It depends on your definition of the word "good." You really do get free Internet access, but you "pay" by subjecting yourself to a constant barrage of ads that appear in a special window the services beam out to you based on the demographic information you supply. If you close, minimize, or otherwise disable the window, you can kiss your connection goodbye.

If incessant ads don't faze you, you've got an ample choice of free Internet services, led by the best known, **NetZero** *(www.netzero.com)*. NetZero, which recently acquired another free ISP, FreeInternet.com, has used frequent TV advertising to pick up a big share of the free-Internet market. Web portal Excite also offers free access with its **FreeLane** *(freelane.excite.com)* service. You can move FreeLane's navigation bar around on your screen, but wherever you place it, it will still keep displaying ads "targeted to your interests." Another free ISP, **Address.com** *(www.address.com)*, uses a similar navigation bar to show its ads.

PHONE AND FAX FOR FREE

Talk may be cheap, but talking on the phone can be flat-out free on the Web. Using Internet telephony software, your PC can digitize your voice and send it over the Internet to a telephone or another PC. You'll need speakers and a microphone, along with the fastest connection you can muster.

Now for the drawbacks. Sound quality is rarely as good as with a real phone, and you may notice some echoing or lag in transmission. You may also have to watch ads while you talk.

Net2Phone *(www.net2phone.com)* is one of the most popular Internet phone services. You can make free PC-to-phone calls within the United States, but you'll pay a per-minute charge for international calls.

Microsoft NetMeeting *(www.microsoft.com/netmeeting)* is most often associated with

videoconferencing and file sharing, but you can use it to make free calls as well. Before you can use NetMeeting, though, you'll need to install Microsoft's MSN Messenger and open a Hotmail account. And the person you're calling must also be online. The service's cell-phone-like interface lets you call people using other H.323-compatible Internet phone software.

Despite the pervasiveness of e-mail, faxing remains a popular method of communication. Free fax services let you use your e-mail program or browser to send faxes to traditional fax machines.

Each fax you send via **The Phone Co.** *(www-usa.tpc.int)* includes a cover page with advertising on it. At **OurFax** *(www.tpcg.com/free.htm)*, ads show up in faxes, confirmations, and on the site. Both services let you enter faxes at the sites or from your e-mail client.

If you just want a way to receive free faxes, try j2 Global Communications *(www.j2.com)*. You're assigned a fax number that directs the documents to your e-mail account. Monthly charges to send faxes begin at $2.95.

Other services offering free receiving include **eFax.com** *(www.efax.com)* and Critical Path's **Fax Mission** *(www.faxmission.com)*.

Portals to the 'Free' World

From magazines to movie tickets, you'll find a gaggle of free goodies at these sites.



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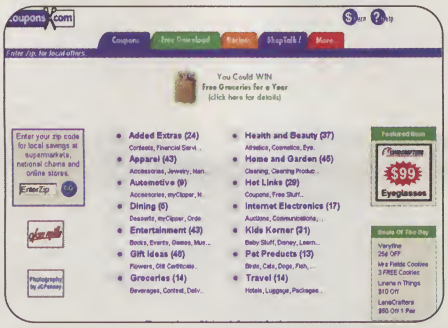
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Coupons.com's *(www.coupons.com)* 14 product categories include apparel, travel, entertainment, dining, groceries, and pet products. You can jump right in, make your selection, and see coupon offers for well-known stores such as PetsMart and Pearl Vision, along with cybershops such as Lands' End and Amazon.com. Print the coupons and use them at your local store, or apply them when you buy online. Coupons are free, and you don't have to give up a bit of personal information.

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Free coupons can help you save money on all sorts of products. Check out Coupons.com to save on just about everything.

Free-Ed *(www.free-ed.net)* offers a wealth of free academic and vocational courseware, categorized by "colleges," including Colleges of Business & Economics, Humanities, Technology, Mathematics, and Science. Many of the courses link to the originating site, but you can roll up your sleeves and get started immediately, without registering.

ThirdAge *(www.thirdage.com/learning)* specializes in information and services for baby boomers, offering free classes in areas such as health, money, travel, and romance. When you select a course, you'll see a description, its requirements, and a week-by-week curriculum. The material is wide-ranging, and most topics should be interesting to those other than boomers.

FREE THINGS YOU CAN TOUCH

If you want to wrap your fingers around a real thing and revel in its freeness, you're in luck. You can receive clothing, books, movie tickets, and samples of all kinds of household products. You can sign up to receive a free sample of a popular magazine or a free trial with an online service provider such as AOL.

But like everything else, before you can call something your own, you'll have to give something up—the demographic information advertisers and merchants salivate over—so expect some new stuff showing up in your snail mail and e-mail inboxes.

Several sites specialize in linking you to the sources of all these freebies. Typically, you have to sign up with them, and you may also have to provide the same information to the company actually providing the complimentary items. (For a listing of some of these sites, see the sidebar, "Portals to the 'Free' World.") Browse to your heart's content. But always read the fine print before you sign up for anything—your free magazine may automatically start a subscription.

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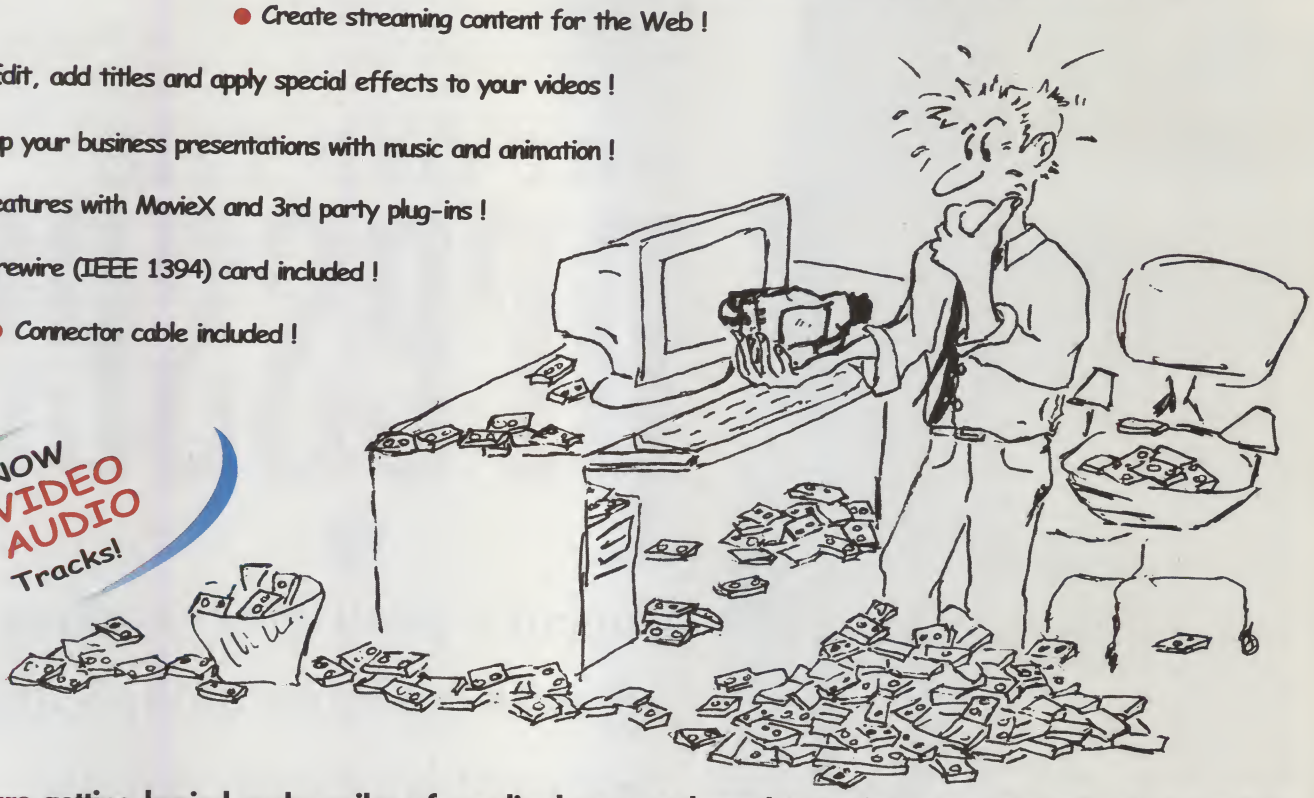
Yes, you can get something for nothing—that is, if you're comfortable divulging your name and e-mail address. But with so much free stuff out there, it's often hard to resist. You can score plenty of worthwhile freebies for minimal effort—just make sure you know what you're giving up in return. ▼

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL RIESER

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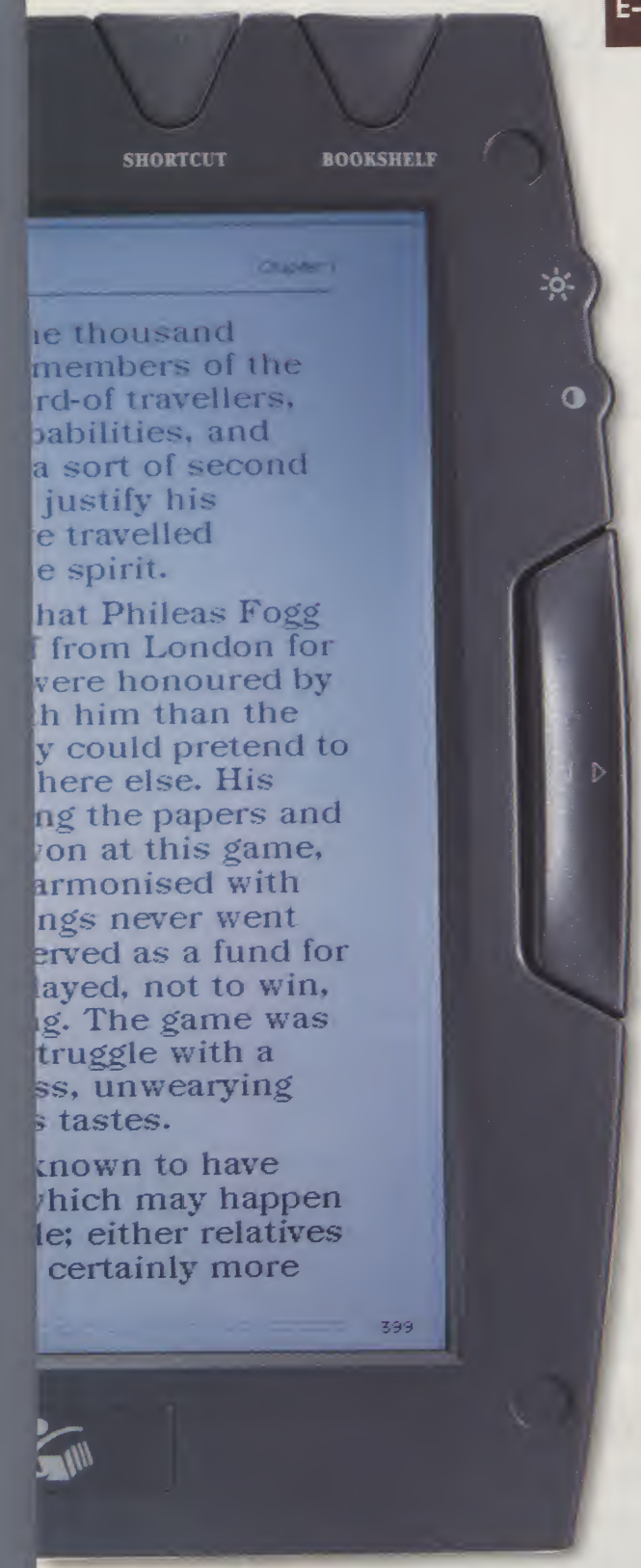
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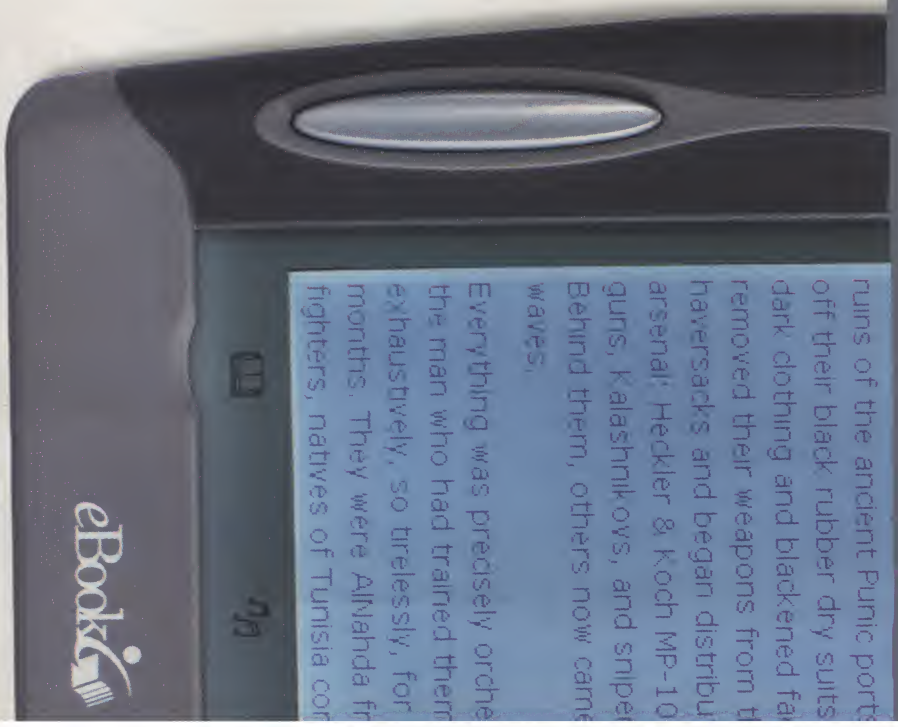
E-BOOKS

NOT OFF THE presses

Paperless publishing is taking off with big-name authors and improved hardware. But are e-books required reading yet?

BY RICK BROIDA





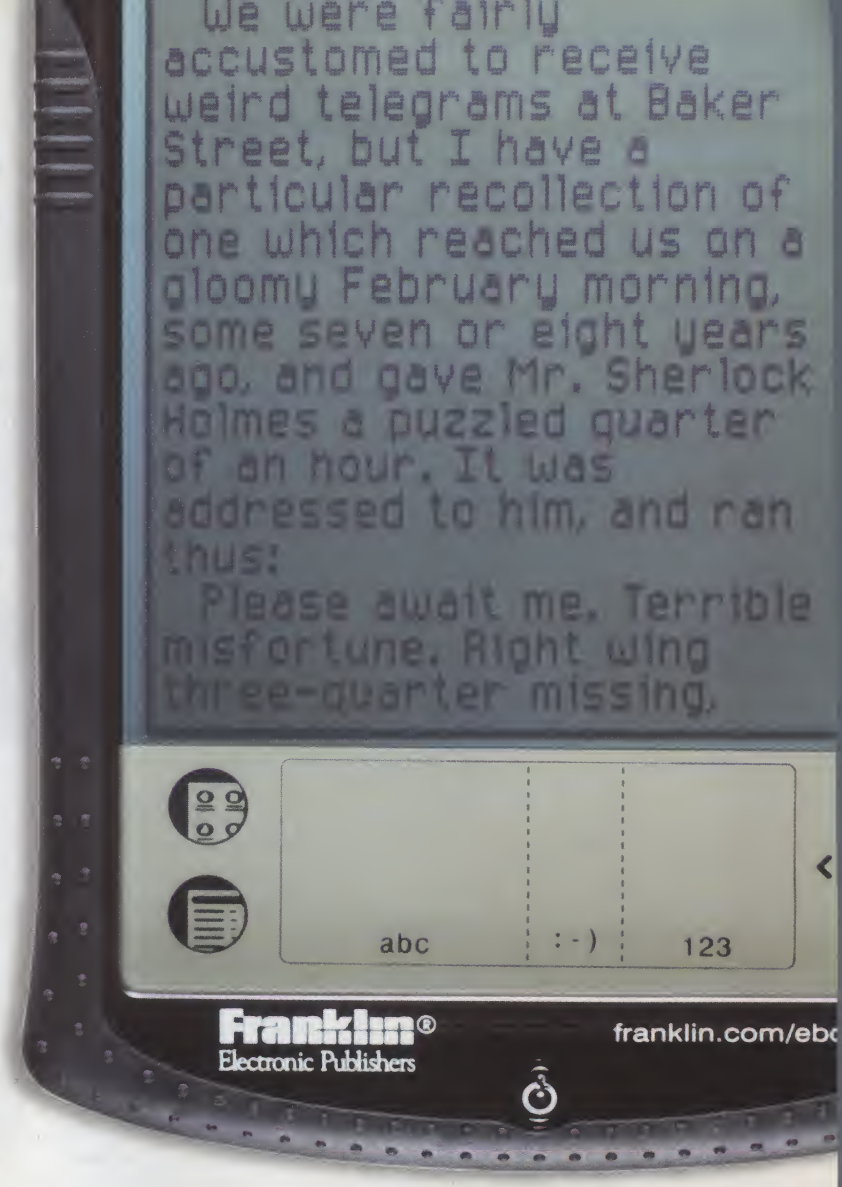
It's likely that history will peg a certain Stephen King short story as the catalyst that changed book publishing forever. That story, "Riding the Bullet," never touched paper—it was produced solely as an electronic work. Anyone wanting to read King's latest needed a PC or PDA and an Internet connection.

Welcome to the 21st century, in which the e-book is rapidly gaining popularity and notoriety, publishers and authors are clashing over rights and royalties, and the paperback could eventually face extinction. "Ten or fifteen years down the road, I think books will only be released as e-books," says Mike Segroves, vice president of marketing and sales for peanutpress.com ***(www.peanutpress.com)***, an e-book reseller. "Electronic text will be the standard for all books."

An e-book is a novel, newspaper, magazine, essay, Shakespearean sonnet—basically, anything you can read—in electronic form. For consumers, this opens the door to reading on a PC or a portable device such as a Palm or Pocket PC. For publishers, it reduces—and could someday eliminate—the need for paper, printing, and distribution. And for authors, both new and established, it affords direct delivery to readers and a potentially big bump in revenue.

Thousands of works of fiction and nonfiction are already available electronically. Some are written by professional authors, others by amateurs; some are free, others will cost you. All this makes for many variables concerning what you can read, where you can read it, and how much it costs.

For instance, if you want to read a Sherlock Holmes novel on your laptop, it may be a simple matter of downloading a text file and opening it in Microsoft Word. But if you want to read *Angela's Ashes* on your Palm, you'll need to visit a site like peanutpress.com, plunk down $17.95, download and install viewer software and the e-book, then enter an encryption code to unlock the book. Finally, if you want to get fancy, you might buy hardware like Franklin Electronic Publishers' eBookMan or a Pocket PC handheld.



VOLUMINOUS VARIETY

Where fiction is concerned, e-books generally fall into one of two categories: public domain and commercial. Public-domain books are older works that are no longer copyrighted, written by authors such as Victor Hugo, Jane Austen, and William Shakespeare. A site called Project Gutenberg ***(www.gutenberg.net)*** has converted about 3,000 classic works of fiction to electronic format, all free for the download. Similarly, MemoWare ***(www.memoware.com)*** houses thousands of public-domain titles, most of them already converted to Palm format.



Commercial e-books, on the other hand, cost money and can include everything from Catherine Ryan Hyde's *Pay It Forward* to Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest Generation*. Here things get a little confusing, as the competition between various hardware platforms has spilled over into commercial e-book publishing. If you want a book for, say, your RCA eBook REB1100 (a dedicated e-book reader), you have to buy it from Gemstar eBook Group ***(ebook-gemstar.com)***, the sole source for REB1100 titles. Amazon.com ***(www.amazon.com)*** and barnesandnoble.com ***(www.barnesandnoble.com)*** offer e-books for Windows-based computers and Pocket PC devices, while peanutpress.com has titles for Pocket PC and Palm OS devices.

What's more, there are different ways to buy commercial e-books. At outlets like barnesandnoble.com and peanutpress.com, you simply buy them outright, as you would from a bookstore. Fictionwise.com ***(www.fictionwise.com)***, meanwhile, sells short stories for just a buck or two each. At Mind's Eye Fiction

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Part of the beauty of e-book readers is that you can load them with all sorts of texts, including mainstream fiction and nonfiction, periodicals, audio books, and new authors' self-published works. Many of these offerings are free. As some of the sites below supply texts from more than one genre, you may find them listed in more than one section.

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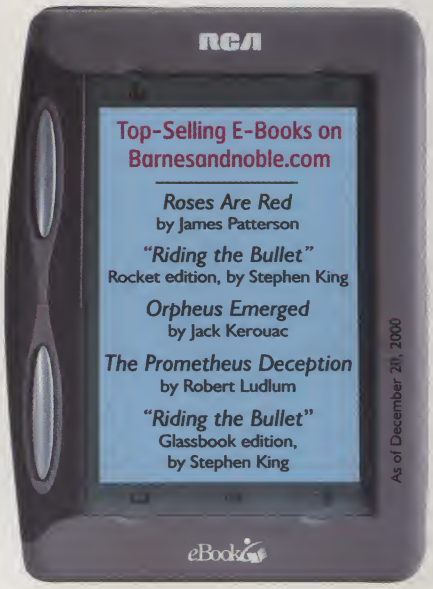
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(www.tale.com), you can read the first part of any story for free, then pay a small fee if you want to read the rest. And then there's Free-ePress.com ***(www.free-epress.com)***, which offers a smattering of novels from unknown writers. They're free, but rely on the honor system. If you like a book, you're encouraged to pony up what you think it's worth.

Speaking of the honor system, Stephen King followed up "Riding the Bullet" with another e-work, *The Plant,* a novel released serially on the author's own Web site ***(www.stephenking.com)***. This time, King sold his fiction directly to readers, bypassing his publisher and even online booksellers. The unorthodox nature of the sales effort was a bit shocking. Readers could download the first two chapters for free, but if at least 75 percent didn't return and pay the requested dollar per chapter, King threatened to stop writing the book.



In fact, he *did* stop writing the book—at least temporarily. The horrormeister upped the price to $2 per chapter when he posted the fourth installment, then announced on his Web site that, following the posting of the sixth installment, *The Plant* would be going "back into hibernation" for a year or two while he worked on other projects.

Though not all high-profile authors have jumped on the e-book bandwagon, that's likely to change. Last November, publishing heavyweight Random House announced plans to split e-book revenues 50-50 with authors, who traditionally receive no more than 15 percent of an e-book's list price. If other publishers follow suit, authors of all standings are sure to embrace the e-book.

New writers already have; more of them are recognizing e-books as a way to get published without having to run the gauntlet of agents and publishers. An e-book writer needs only a word processor, an Internet connection, and the minimal technical savvy necessary to convert his or her work into some desirable e-book formats. (See the sidebar "Do-It-Yourself Publishing.")

FORM AND FORMAT

With an e-book, the hardware you use will, in part, determine which books you can read, because the e-book files aren't always compatible across all platforms. For instance, you can view a raw text file on just about any PC, but reading that file on a PDA usually requires a conversion utility to make it compatible with the hardware. Likewise, e-books formatted for dedicated readers are specific to those devices.

Desktop and notebook users can read most public-domain books with Microsoft Word or any other word processor or text reader, assuming that the book file is in a generic format such as TXT. If it's a LIT file (the native format for Microsoft Reader) or a PDB file (Palm format), it won't be accessible from the likes of Word.

On the commercial side, computer-bound readers can choose between two competing standards: Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader, formerly the Glassbook Reader ***(www.adobe.com/epaper/ebooks)***, and Microsoft Reader ***(www.microsoft.com/reader)***, both of which are free downloads. Adobe offers a fairly comprehensive library of classic and contemporary titles, the latter usually discounted by 10 or 20 percent. (Nelson DeMille's *The Lion's Game,* for instance, costs $6.95 in paperback, but sells for $5.56 in Acrobat eBook Reader format.) Barnesandnoble.com stocks a smaller, but growing, selection of titles for Microsoft Reader, with similar discounts.

The same software will work well on a notebook, and if you pack a portable when you travel, you might as well keep a few e-books loaded on the hard drive. Of course, no one's going to tote a notebook just to read e-books, and that's where handheld PCs come in.

Most Palm and Pocket PC users carry their devices just about everywhere, making them a natural e-book platform. Palm owners have enjoyed handheld reading since early in the device's history, thanks to the document viewer called Doc. You can find thousands of Palm-formatted titles free at sites such as MemoWare. All you need on the Palm side is one of many available Doc

viewers, like CSpotRun (free) or TealDoc ($16.95). Visit PalmGear HQ *(www.palmgear.com)* to find these and other viewers.

You also can delve into Doc files using Peanut Reader, the free viewer provided by peanutpress.com, which stocks nearly 2,000 e-books from best-selling authors.

Owners of Handspring's Palm OS-based Visor handhelds can access reference books or book collections from Springboard expansion modules. The $45.50 *Star Trek BookPak,* for instance, contains seven complete *Star Trek* novels, while the $199 *Physicians' Desk Reference* 2000 includes the full text of the print version.

And Microsoft's Pocket PC includes an e-book viewer, a mobile version of Microsoft Reader. Reader-compatible public-domain and commercial e-books are available from Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. And peanutpress.com offers Windows CE and Pocket PC versions of its Peanut Reader viewer, making its entire catalog of books available to users of handhelds.

FOR READERS ONLY

Plenty of folks don't own a handheld device, however, and several companies aim to lure them into e-reading with sleek new dedicated e-book readers.

The RCA eBook REB1100 is about the size of a paperback book and weighs about a pound, with a 5.5-inch backlit gray-scale screen, 8MB of RAM (enough to hold about 20 novels, and expandable to 72MB), a rechargeable battery, and a built-in *Random House Webster's Dictionary.* The REB1200 is a bit heftier, weighing roughly 2 pounds and sized like a magazine. It features an 8.2-inch color screen, thereby accommodating the kind of color content found in magazines and newspapers. Like the REB1100, this model comes with 8MB of RAM (expandable to 128MB), a rechargeable battery, and a dictionary.

E-BOOKS

Both RCA eBooks have built-in modems, obviating the need for a PC and allowing you to download new books anywhere you can find a phone jack. Content comes from the Gemstar eBook Group, which markets the eBooks and offers a substantial selection of well-known contemporary fiction, plus articles from major newspapers and magazines. As a bonus, Gemstar also promises to make new releases available to eBook owners before they're available in print.

The Franklin eBookMan *(www.franklin.com/ebookman)*, an ambitious device that closely resembles Palm handhelds but employs a proprietary OS, offers decidedly PDA-like functionality, with an appointment calendar, address book, task list, memo pad, and more. It's more of an all-around device, also allowing you to play audio books from Audible.com *(www.audible.com)* and MP3 music files. And it supports not only Franklin-formatted content, but Microsoft Reader titles as well.

Franklin offers three eBookMan models, with prices ranging from $129.95 to $229.95. All three include a 240x200-pixel gray-scale touch-sensitive screen (with support for handwriting recognition), a dictionary, and a MultiMediaCard slot for adding up to 64MB of RAM.

PERKS AND IRKS

Ask someone to explain the appeal of the e-book, and most will mention convenience. "I bring my PDA with me wherever I go," says tax attorney Salvatore Mirandola, "so it's very convenient to read e-books whenever I have some moments of free time."

Another perk is speedy delivery. When you buy a print book, you'll have to trek to a store or wait several days for an online reseller to ship it. E-books, on the other hand, are downloaded immediately. And don't forget the "e" aspect of e-books. Because the text is electronic, it's a simple matter to search for a specific phrase, annotate passages, add and remove bookmarks (no dog-earing required), and change the font size to suit your eyesight.

Many e-book fans appreciate being able to carry several books at a time, without the weight and bulk of print books. "I keep about 12 different e-books loaded on my PDA," says systems engineer Chris Huber. "I wouldn't even think about carrying 12 paperback or hardcover books with me."

In addition, the often overlooked advantage of reading on a backlit screen is that you can read in poorly lit environments, even a dark bedroom. A nursing mom, for example, can read an e-book during late-night feedings without a baby-waking lamp nearby.

But like any fledgling technology, e-books aren't perfect. At the moment, the main gripe is price. The hardware is

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Book Reports

TWO DIFFERENT TAKES ON THE ELECTRONIC EXPERIENCE

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—Christopher Boerma, systems coordinator

DE-FLATED

"I expected the e-books to be very cheap, and was very deflated to find them close to paperback prices. And I did not like the reading experience at all. The Rocket eBook [the precursor to the RCA eBook] is just too hard in the hand—I felt like an ancient Roman reading a tabula. I like books: They are soft, they are flexible, they are tough to break, and they are cheap. And owning a physical object is much more desirable than owning a collection of electrons."

—Willy Holt, college student and Web-site designer

E-BOOKS

expensive relative to ink and paper, and the books themselves don't reflect the dramatically lower cost of production.

"In the real world, eliminating paper saves a lot of money," says technical-support representative Richard McComb. "Why are e-books as expensive as, or more expensive than, the paper equivalent?"

A very good question. Although publishers save money on production, distribution, and warehousing, most e-books don't reflect those savings. The paperback edition of Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* has a retail price of $14, but it sells for $17.95 at peanutpress.com. That's nearly 30 percent off the hardcover price, but hard to swallow now that the paperback is available.

Though a majority of e-books are discounted, either from the paperback- or hardcover-equivalent prices, readers are dissatisfied with the minuscule savings. Jeff Kirvin, Free-ePress.com co-founder, believes that the current pricing structure will keep readers from switching to e-books. "People will embrace e-books if they can buy them for two or three bucks a copy," he says.

Even e-book resellers share the frustration. "We buy a book from a publisher for the same price as Amazon and Barnes & Noble do," says peanutpress.com president Jeff Strobel. "We don't make publishers enough money [for them] to rework their system yet, but that's going to change." And when it does, he says, e-book prices will come down.

There's also the price of e-book hardware. RCA's REB1100 lists for $299, and the REB1200 sells for a whopping $699. Franklin's eBookMan is priced more reasonably: just $129.95 for the entry-level model that includes PDA features.

Cost notwithstanding, Kirvin has doubts that dedicated e-book readers will attract many users. "I don't believe people lugging around a pager, cell phone, and notebook want to carry another device," he says. For those already carrying a PDA, however, reading e-books is a natural extension of a device that's already in their pockets.

With any PDA or dedicated e-book reader, users must also contend with memory limitations. The Palm version of *War and Peace* consumes about 1.6MB of RAM. If you use an RCA eBook and subscribe to magazine content, you could wind up with documents that nab several megabytes of memory.

Battery life is another potential obstacle. Print books don't run out of juice and go blank, but electronic devices can. Laptop batteries tend to last roughly 3 hours, and the RCA eBook REB1200, with its power-hungry color screen, gets a maximum of 4.5 hours from its battery. Most PDAs, however, run for a minimum of 8 hours on a charge, and some last for weeks on a pair of AAA batteries.

Finally, there's the fundamental resistance some people have to giving up ink and paper. Even Kirvin, a self-proclaimed e-book lover, admits that e-books "don't have the curled-up-by-the-fireside aesthetic of a nice hardcover." From a comfort standpoint, voracious readers may take issue with switching from a reasonably roomy printed page to a cramped LCD screen.

Despite these obstacles, most publishers agree that e-books will take a place alongside printed books, rather than replace them. Adam Rothberg, director of corporate communications for Simon & Schuster, cites a recent study for the American Association of Publishers that forecasts e-books to be a $2.7 billion business by 2005. "Most writers are happy to find another outlet for their work," Rothberg says. "The reason they write is to reach an audience. If this is another way to reach more readers, it's a good thing." ▼

Reading Between the Lines

	Franklin eBookMan	Palm OS Handhelds	Pocket PC Handhelds	RCA eBook REB1100	RCA eBook REB1200
PROS	Support for multiple formats; plays both audio-book and MP3 files; PDA features; expandable memory; built-in dictionary	Robust PDA features; large libraries of commercial and public-domain content available	Robust PDA features; many commercial books available; play both audio-book and MP3 files; most models have color screens	Roomy screen; support for graphical content; large library of commercial content; built-in modem and dictionary	Color screen; support for graphical content; large library of commercial content; built-in modem and dictionary
CONS	Proprietary PIM platform	Small screens; often limited storage capability	Expensive; small screens	Expensive; heavy and bulky; only one source for books	Very expensive; heavy and bulky; only one source for books
PRICE	$129.95 and up	$149 and up	$299 and up	$299	$699







Do-It-Yourself Publishing

The story is as old as publishing itself. After painstaking years crafting the Great American Novel, you send the manuscript off to publishing agents in hopes of landing on Oprah's book list. Rejection slips multiply like junk mail. If you're lucky, a small publisher takes interest—but offers no advance, a tiny percentage of royalties, and a print run of a measly few thousand copies.

Now there's a better way. Just as the Internet, thanks to MP3 technology, enabled unknown musicians to broadcast their work to the world, it's also rewriting the rules for unpublished authors. Those not seeking fame and fortune can make their works available for download on various e-book and PDA sites such as Free-ePress.com ***(www.free-epress.com)*** or Online Originals ***(www.onlineoriginals.com)***.

Ambitious writers seeking big bucks and book tours can turn to sites such as eBrandedBooks.com ***(www.ebrandedbooks.com)***, which "acts as your personal agent and publisher." The company promises 50 percent royalties, and will even publish and promote your book if the electronic version is downloaded 100 times.

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Last-Minute Deals On Spring Flings

Whether you're collegiate or corporate, find a great spontaneous spring break at one of these 11th-hour travel sites.

by Anita Gates

The annoying thing about being over 21 at this time of year is that offices, by and large, don't close for spring break—even if you work for MTV. But there's no reason you can't devise your own hedonistic getaway, no matter how long you've waited to plan (or how long it's been since your last midterm).



Find an intoxicating cure for spring fever at Site59.com.

Many sites make arranging a last-minute spring getaway a breeze. A great place to start is **Site59.com *(www.site59.com)***. This stylish destination, organized by categories like "travel on a whim" and "you only live once," caters to those who know the value of spontaneity. You might easily find a three-day getaway to Florida, California, or wherever else your heart roams in the springtime. Under the site's Red Carpet category (for the luxury-minded), we found last-minute spa packages, Santa Monica beach weekends, and California Wine Country tours complete with stretch limousine. Check out the Getaways category, and you might turn up an affordable fly/drive weekend in New Orleans. The site also offers e-mail notification of discounts.

If you'd rather create your own package, **SideStep *(www.sidestep.com)*** may be the place for you. SideStep is a plug-in for your browser (only currently available for Microsoft Internet Explorer) that surveys dozens of Web sites for the lowest airfares (including the airlines' own Internet-only fares), hotel rooms, and car-rental rates. If you find something you like, it whisks you to the order pages of the travel suppliers.

If it absolutely, positively has to be the rock-bottom fare and you don't care what time of day you travel, **Hotwire *(www.hotwire.com)*** is sure to please. One small catch, though: All you'll know when you decide whether or not to make the purchase is the price. You won't find out the airline or the exact schedule until after you've committed to buying the ticket. But the site counts eight major U.S. airlines as partners, so you're probably in capable hands.

If you register with **Best Fares U.S.A. *(www.bestfares.com)***, you'll receive weekly e-mail newsletters containing great travel deals. You may need to keep a bag packed at all times, though; these offers are often very last-minute. A recent newsletter offered reasonable round-trip airfares to Caribbean destinations including Aruba, Grand Cayman, San Juan, and St. Croix ($328 to $458, depending on where you're traveling from). The site also provides weekly Net specials, information on cruise bargains, and even a travel-scam alert.

The consolidators at **WebFlyer *(www.webflyer. com)*** publish weekly specials from the airlines' sites at 5 p.m. every Wednesday. We checked these listings at press time and found some great deals, including a $199 Seattle-to-San Diego round-trip fare on Alaska Airlines and a round-trip fare from Dallas to San Francisco on Delta for $168.



Desperate to use those frequent-flyer miles, but coming up short? Try Miles4Sale.com.

Sign up for MyTravelMinder at **LastMinute Travel.com *(www.lastminutetravel.com)***, and you can save up to 30 "alert requests," providing customized information on deals for airline travel, lodging, cruise packages, and events. The site will even serve up the weather forecast for your destination.

If you enjoy the thrill of the auction, try **Bid4Vacations.com *(www.bid4vacations.com)***, which recently had offers for the likes of Cabo San Lucas, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. And if you hate bidding, you can find "buy now" selections at a discounted flat price. Similarly, **SkyAuction.com *(www.skyauction.com)*** offers an array of domestic and international airline-only fares. But be wary of the site's claim to accept bids as low as $1: A quick peek at the fine print on one vacation showed that was true only if you didn't count the $195 per-suite tax and service costs.



Check StudentUniverse.com for spring fun in the Big Easy.

If you'd love to use frequent-flyer mileage for your spring getaway but find yourself a few miles short, **Miles4Sale.com *(www.miles4sale.com)*** may be able to help. The site enables you to buy 1,000 miles for just $39.95 or 5,000 miles for $179.95. The airline may charge a small fee for booking a mileage-paid trip at the 11th hour, but you can just think of it as a big tip.

Finally, actual college students may want to check out **StudentUniverse.com *(www.studentuniverse.com)*** for trips to popular spring-break destinations such as Florida, Myrtle Beach, and New Orleans. The site also stocks an impressive amount of data on buses, trains, hotels, and youth hostels in Europe. Another possibility is **STA Travel *(www.sta.com)*** for inclusive packages to spring-break hot spots, as well as more off-the-beaten-path places like Zanzibar, Tunisia, and North Vietnam. ▼



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SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

BY KEVIN SAVETZ

CONTENTS

PC Shopping 157
Small-Business Services.....159
Online Photofinishers 160
PC Direct Vendors 161
PC Resources.....162
Software Sites.....167
Coupons and Deals 167
Custom Music CDs.....170

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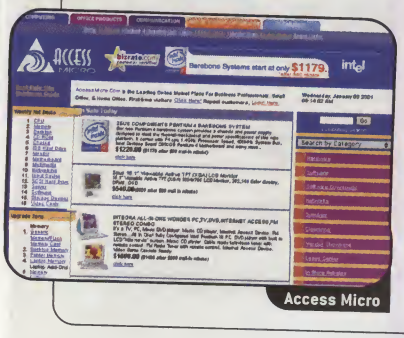
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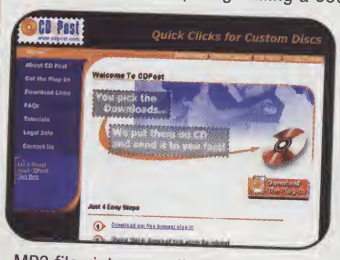
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In addition to data CDs, CD Post can burn audio discs. The service will even turn your MP3 files into an audio CD that can be played on any stereo.

The service, currently only available for Windows users, is useful for creating long-term backups of important data and archiving digital-camera pictures, but it won't satisfy the needs of folks who need to burn CDs frequently.

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Computer Shopper's own piece of cyberspace provides access to product reviews, interactive guides to choosing a desktop or a notebook, and How to Buy sections for the most popular product categories.

SITE REVIEWS

www.computersurplusoutlet.com

You're just crazy enough to build your own desktop system, aren't you? Then you'll feel right at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet,** where you'll find closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items. You can even stumble upon the occasional assembly-required Pentium system for less than $100.



crucial.com

One of the largest providers of memory upgrades on the Web, **Crucial Technology** offers nearly 50,000 upgrade options for 10,000 computer systems. The site's Memory Selector helps buyers find the right product, and the company backs its memory with a lifetime warranty.

cyberrebate.com

CyberRebate.com only sells products that come with money-back rebates. You'll find a small selection of computer accessories and software. The "100% Off" tab reveals 900 products whose rebates equal their cost—but it can take months to receive your money, so don't hold your breath!

cyberwarehouse.com

If you can't pass up a bargain-basement sale (and don't mind waiting a few days for your item to ship), **CyberWarehouse** is definitely for you. The site offers a small selection of PCs, monitors, and other peripherals.

dalco.com

Dalco Electronics stocks everything from motherboards to monitors, ships them the day you order, and includes a 30-day guarantee. Bargain hunters will want to start with the specials found on the home page, which change regularly.

dartek.com

With a roster of more than 100,000 products, **Dartek** peddles an impressive selection of hardware, software, networking equipment, and office furniture. Well-designed features include printable spec sheets, customers' product ratings, a product-watch feature, and a frequent-buyers' club.

direct411.com

Operator? Information, please! **Direct411.com** offers an impressive selection of in-stock hardware and software products. The catalog includes servers, memory upgrades, storage devices, digital cameras, and software. Online technical support is available.

dirtcheapdrives.com

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers hard drives, CD-ROM and DVD hardware, and drive arrays, with detailed technical information about each product. This decade-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and accessories.



ecost.com

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full range of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use systems, peripherals, accessories, and applications. The site features personalized product recommendations and fastidious organization.

egghead.com

Egghead.com shoppers can browse the site's hardware, software, office-product, and electronics superstores. Corporate users will find volume pricing, leasing information, and software licensing in the business center.

www.electrified.com

Need a serious bargain? **Electrified Discounters** specializes in products that are discontinued, second-inventory, refurbished, off-lease, or otherwise past their prime. Systems range from new Pentium II laptops to under-$200 used 486s. (Wear your sunglasses, however—this site is so garish it can be difficult to navigate.)

elinux.com

At **eLinux** you'll find hardware and software for users of the Linux operating system. The site is so serious about Linux, its desktop and notebook systems don't come bundled with that "other" OS. Features include Linux news and a community forum.

www.firstsource.com

Focused on the technology needs of businesses, **Firstsource** offers a broad range of choices in computer hardware, rack-mount systems, network tools, phone systems, wiring, and software. Real-time online customer service is available.

globalcomputer.com

Global Computer Supplies features same-day shipping on a Godzilla-size selection of PC components, accessories, software, furniture, and media. "Showrooms" highlight products from featured manufacturers. Watch out for the 15 percent restocking fee on nondefective returns, though.

gogocity.com

You'd think **GoGoCity.com** would be the one-stop-shop for knee-high boots, hot pants, and all things "gogo." Not so fast, slick. This site actually features desktop and notebook computers, peripherals, software, and accessories. The strangely diverse product categories also include children's items and interior-decoration products.

insight.com

With more than 100,000 items for sale, **Insight** offers an impressive catalog of hardware and software. Sign up for one or more of the 100 free newsletters featuring bulletins on new products, closeout specials, and tech news. Customized sites are available for shoppers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany.



www.jandr.com

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Computer World,** the New York City-based superstore famed for its selection and, ahem, "brusque" service. Avoid the attitude with this online version, which specializes in cameras—both digital and traditional film models. Product help is available via e-mail, online chat, and phone.

laptoptravel.com

Laptop Travel is road-warrior heaven! The site sells portable-computing and international-travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters/couplers, and security accessories. You'll find traditional and "camouflaged" laptop carrying cases, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.



thelinuxstore.com

TheLinuxStore offers a small selection of "penguin-powered" hardware and software that's compatible with the

SITE REVIEWS

popular alternative operating system. The community area offers Linux news, free downloads, and Web links.

mcglen.com

McGlen Micro's specialized searches can help you find memory and other accessories compatible with your computer, printer, or copier. With the Build-To-Order Configurator, shoppers can design a custom system, which the company will configure and ship to you in two days.

mediasourceinc.com

Media Source is obsessed with storage media. This single-minded site sells CD-Rs, bulk floppies, optical discs, Zip disks, Jaz disks, DATs, and tons more. The selection of writable CDs includes brand-name and generic disks, business-card CD-Rs, and printable media.

megahaus.com

MegaHaus bills itself the "drive authority," offering a wide variety of storage solutions, including hard drives, DVD drives, RAID arrays, and CD-mastering products. A tech-info area features FAQs and specifications on hardware ranging from DVD players to drive brackets.

mei-microcenter.com

MEI-Micro Center offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, eMachines, Hewlett-Packard, and PowerSpec. You'll also find a small selection of peripherals. Rummage through the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.



MEI-Micro Center

memman.com

All of the desktop and laptop memory sold at **Memory Man** carries a lifetime warranty, and the site's reference guide offers RAM-configuration info for all name-brand computers. The site also *sells processors*, motherboards, hard drives, heat sinks, and more for intrepid system builders.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE FLAHERTY

memory4less.com

Memory4Less.com offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older types you may have been pulling your hair out to find. If you don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, this site will clue you in.

microx-press.com

MicroX-Press offers detailed information about most products, as well as a handy feature that will send you an e-mail whenever a product's price drops below a limit you set. Customers are invited to rate and review products they've tried.

www.mobile-mania.com

Don't freak out, kids! Cut back on the sugar intake, and head over to **mobilemania.com,** where digital cameras, e-mail devices, PDAs, cases, and adapters of all sorts are available for folks on the go.

mobileplanet.com

MobilePlanet is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys for mobile professionals. The selection includes handheld and notebook computers, PDAs, wireless-communication products, and travel-size printers and scanners. Rotating 3D images offer views of many products' least flattering sides.



mobshop.com

MobShop offers group-buying discounts on computer hardware, software, PDAs, and home electronics. As more customers buy a product within a specified time period, the price drops for all buyers. If you're not in too much of a hurry, you can save some serious bucks.

motherboards.com

With a wide selection of motherboards from nine manufacturers, do-it-yourselfers can handpick the perfect innards for their new PCs at **Motherboards.com.** Customers can post product reviews, dinging those models that just don't live up to the hype.

www.mwave.com

In addition to PC systems and peripherals, **Multiwave Direct** stocks notebook accessories, videoconferencing equipment, and network tools. Top sellers, "blowout specials," and rebate forms are a click away from the home page.

neutronet.com

Neutron carries thousands of computer systems and peripherals from nearly 400 manufacturers and distributors. A handy toolbox offers easy access to best buys, help for first-time buyers, and a massive manufacturer directory.

notebooksuperstore.com

Devoted exclusively to portable computers, **NotebookSuperStore.com** sells more than 50 different laptop models from nine manufacturers. You'll see technical details about each model, and a comparison tool helps you zero in on the best portable for your needs.





SMALL-BUSINESS SERVICES

iprint.com

Need to build brand awareness? Creating personalized items for business is a snap at **iPrint.com.** Place your mark on stationery, rubber stamps, business cards, and sticky notepads, or create your own promotional items like key chains, T-shirts, and golf balls.

j2.com

Communication is key. With **j2's** service you can receive faxes and voice mail in your e-mailbox, and listen to e-mail messages via a toll-free phone number.

mimeo.com

Makin' copies: **Mimeo.com** offers Internet-based document printing, binding, and delivery. Use the special software to print proposals and presentations from your PC, selecting your custom printing and binding options. The documents will be delivered the next day anywhere in the United States or Canada.

paycheckcity.com

Find out what you're owed and owe. **Paycheck City's** Web-based calculators can verify the accuracy of payroll checks. Employers can use the site to complete W-4 forms, and employees can verify what they should be paying in federal, state, and Social Security taxes.

smartship.com

Select the right carrier for your shipments. Enter the weight and other details about your package at **SmartShip.com,** and the site helps you choose the best major carrier, whether your priority is speed or cost.

stamps.com

First there was e-mail, now e-postage. At **Stamps.com** you buy postage online and print it out on an inkjet or laser. You can send items first class, Priority Mail, and Express Mail. Delivery confirmation and certified mail are also available.

webex.com

Let's meet! **WebEx** is a collaboration system for holding online meetings. Share documents and applications with *colleagues who have your meeting-room* password and the WebEx plug-in. Free virtual offices offer personalized conference rooms with an online calendar, address book, and document storage.

SITE REVIEWS

123cdc.com

This site's name says it all. **Computer Discount Center** offers a wide variety of system add-ons, including storage devices, digital cameras, networking hardware, and displays, all at competitive prices. The site provides extra-detailed product information.



ONLINE PHOTOFINISHERS

ofoto.com

Send, snap, and wait to receive. Upload your digital photos or send film rolls in prepaid mailers, and **Ofoto** will send back prints—sized from 4x6 to 8x10. New customers can get their first prints free through ongoing deals. The service provides unlimited storage space in secure online albums.

www.photonet.com

Kodak PhotoNet provides the best of both worlds—the convenience of dropping off film and getting prints from your local photofinisher, plus digital pictures you can e-mail to Grandma or put on your Web page. You can also have your photo printed on a mug or mouse pad.

photopoint.com

It's a digital shoebox for your pictures. Store digital photos online at **PhotoPoint** and e-mail PicCheers, online greeting cards featuring your photo, to friends. The site's photography workshop offers semi-monthly "assignments" to expand your photo-taking skills.

photos.yahoo.com

Get prints from your digital camera, or digital pictures from your roll of film, with **Yahoo Photos.** You can store up to 25MB of photos online; albums may be private, shared with selected friends, or viewable by anyone.

photoworks.com

Package your pictures as you like. In addition to prints and online pictures, **PhotoWorks** will create a CD-ROM with high-resolution versions of your photos. The site's address book allows you to easily e-mail a single picture or an entire album to family and friends.

shutterfly.com

Shutterfly specializes in printing pictures taken with digital cameras. You can add a creative touch by adding borders, text, or color effects. In addition to traditional prints, the service lets you create photo-greeting cards with personal messages. Shutterfly then mails them directly to your recipients.

snapfish.com

Snapfish.com is the least expensive online photofinisher. The service will print your digital or traditional film pictures for free, charging only $1.69 per roll for shipping and handling. The catch is that you must view your pictures online within a month, completing a short survey each time.

onvia.com

Onvia.com, a business-to-business computer outlet, offers a handful of features that distinguish it as a small-business resource, including a Request for Quotes marketplace, buying guides, and B2B auctions.

outpost.com

Free overnight delivery and a 30-day money-back guarantee are among the exceptional customer-service features at **Outpost.com.** The site sells a wide selection of computer hardware and software, personal electronics, and office products.

palmgear.com

Users of handhelds will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial programs downloadable from **PalmGear HQ.** Shoppers can buy PDA hardware and accessories, including carrying cases and hip, fashion-forward styli. Sign up for an e-mailing list to receive news, specials, and user tips.



pcconnection.com

PC Connection offers nifty bargains on a colossal variety of PC and Macintosh products. Smart Selectors ease the searching process for shoppers looking for turnkey systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

pcmall.com

Shoppers at **PC Mall** receive free lifetime technical support on the site's vast selection of computers, hardware, and software. The site's business-solutions forum offers corporate leasing and volume pricing. Apple-heads can find all their favorite Macintosh products at the **Mac Mall** sister site ***(www.macmall.com)***.

pcwonders.com

Will wonders never cease? Not at **pcWonders.com,** which sells more than 120,000 hardware and software items, plus home electronics and "bargain blowouts."

pczone.com

PC Zone carries an impressive selection of all things PC. You'll find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Electronics Zone.** Printable rebate coupons can save you some cash.

provantage.com

Provantage offers PC products from more than 1,000 manufacturers, including a large selection of books and training materials. The site's Personal Tracking List feature lets customers build a list of product bookmarks, then monitor prices and availability.

www.qualityclick.com

Flea-market aficionados will love **QualityClick.com,** which offers the unusual ability to "haggle" for selected products. The store covers all the basics for PC users, including hardware, networking supplies, accessories, and software, and offers a build-to-order system configurator.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The site tracks the prices of more than 200,000 products in 100 stores. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

shoppingplanet.com

Do-it-yourselfers will appreciate **Shopping Planet's** inventory of barebones systems, add-on cards, and kits. A section of the site specializing in software and hardware for the Linux operating system is available at ***www.shoppingplanet.com/cm/linux.asp.***



www.sparco.com

Looking for that something extra? Check out **Sparco.com's** list of products that come bundled with "free stuff." The site stocks more than 130,000 products, and it offers a list of discounted items for students and faculty members of academic institutions.

www.spidergear.com

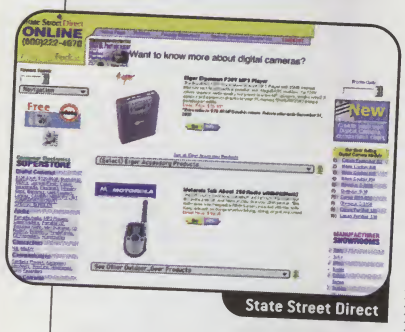
SpiderGear offers new and refurbished computers, cameras, home audio and video products, and car audio items and appliances. A $10 optional membership entitles you to reduced prices and an annual rebate.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVE FLAHERTY

SITE REVIEWS

www.ssdonline.com

At **State Street Direct,** shoppers will discover a huge selection of computers and imaging products. Digital-camera shoppers will find many items of interest, including a gallery for comparing images taken with various cameras.



State Street Direct

staples.com

Yeah, they got that. **Staples'** Web site offers a liberal price-matching policy on computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized shopping lists. The company can occasionally take its time shipping items out to you, though, so beware.

2for1inkjet.com

Searching for incredible deals on printing supplies? Check out **2 For 1 Inkjet,** which offers two-for-one prices on toner and ink cartridges for every brand of inkjet and laser printer, copier, and fax machine. The company offers free shipping on larger orders.

3re.com

If you can tolerate hand-me-downs to save some bucks, check out **3Re.com,** which repairs and repackages factory-returned computers and electronic equipment. Offerings include desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, network equipment, and software.

tccomputers.com

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems, motherboards, and name-brand peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards: It tests each one before shipping and bundles a step-by-step installation video.

tcwo.com

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet Center offers only a small selection of computer products. You may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives, but the prices are fantastic.

techstore.com

TechStore.com offers hardware in dozens of categories and highlights monthly top sellers. The site also sells a wide range of software—everything from Microsoft productivity suites to children's titles.

thortek.com

A wide array of computer accessories awaits **ThorTek** shoppers. The site provides quick links to the "top 5" products in several categories, including hard drives, monitors, digital cameras, and CD-RW drives.

tigerdirect.com

TigerDirect's site offers 46,000 products, including custom-built computers that are tested and shipped within 48 hours. Up for a little adventure? Order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit, and let the fun begin!



truedataonline.com

True Data Technology stocks an exceptional catalog of motherboards, hard drives, and other upgrades. The site also features communication essentials for businesses, including DSL equipment and telephony products.

www.usbstuff.com

USB Stuff specializes in Universal Serial Bus-equipped gadgets, including digital cameras, CD-RW drives, printers, modems, hubs, and input devices. Uh-oh: Poor site design makes navigation difficult. A sister site at ***www.firewirestuff.com*** stocks IEEE 1394-compatible hardware.

usedcomputer.com

Used Computer Mall is a marketplace for, you guessed it, used computer equipment. Shoppers can list hardware to sell, or look for items to buy using the free classified ads. The site will also help you appraise equipment.

warehouse.com

The five "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware, software, Mac products, networking components, and supplies. The site accepts corporate, educational, and government accounts, and offers business leases on many products.

PC DIRECT VENDORS

axissys.com

You'll know you're not being taken to the cleaners at the **Axis Systems** Web store—it offers a best-price guarantee on its preconfigured notebooks, servers, desktops, and workstations.

buyabs.com

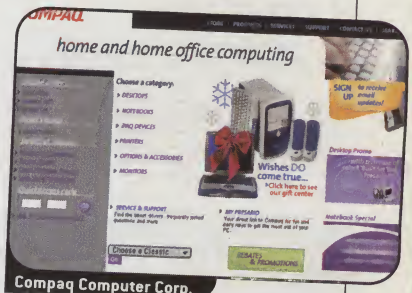
Exceptional customer support on custom-configured desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS Computer Technologies.** All systems include a 30-day money-back guarantee. Some computers are available with Linux preinstalled.

buy-atlas.com

Atlas Micro offers desktop PCs built around Pentium III, Celeron, and AMD processors. Buyers can use drop-down menus to build a custom configuration and are protected by a reasonable 30-day return policy.

compaq.com

Three arms of **Compaq Computer Corp.'s** site offer computers for everyone. See Compaq AtHome ***(athome.compaq.com)*** for home and home-office systems, DirectPlus ***(www.directplus.compaq.com)*** for business PCs and servers, or the Compaq Factory Outlet Superstore ***(compaqfactoryoutlet.com)*** for big bargains. The site allows shoppers to test-drive Compaq systems running various operating systems.



Compaq Computer Corp.

cyberpowerinc.com

Each **CyberPower** PC includes a three-year warranty and 30-day money-back guarantee. The site's service area includes downloadable drivers and lifetime tech support.

dell.com



Dell Computer Corp.'s electronic storefront has always led the way in terms of ease of use. The site is jam-packed with detailed information that makes it a snap to match a machine to your needs. Each system is configurable to the nth degree via drop-down menus, and you can get quick access to online support customized for your PC.

www.fosa.com

Fosa's built-to-order notebook computers include a 15-day money-back guarantee with no restocking fee and lifetime technical support. We just wish the site didn't depend so heavily on the Macromedia Flash plug-in. Sheesh!

www.fujitsu-pc.com

Fujitsu's site focuses on portable computing, including notebook PCs and pen-based tablet computers. Each computer includes several warranty options. The site's Refurbished Outlet peddles money-saving deals.

SITE REVIEWS

gateway.com

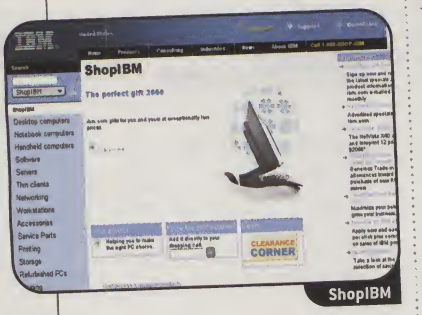
One of the biggest players in online computer sales, **Gateway's** enormous and informative site sells custom-built desktops and portables, delivering them on time 98 percent of the time, according to BizRate.com.

hpshopping.com

At this site, **Hewlett-Packard Co.** sells its lines of desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, PDAs, digital cameras, and printers. Business leases are available, and the site makes repeat purchases easy for businesses and individuals.

ibm.com/shop

ShopIBM sells business and home computers, notebooks, servers, thin clients, networking equipment, and peripherals. The build-to-order option allows buyers to customize a new desktop PC. Linux is an option on laptop models.



idot.com

From low-cost budget models to powerful monster machines, **iDot** offers customized desktop and notebook computers with a good return policy. The iForum area includes tech articles and Q&A lists of interest to PC shoppers.

kaypro.com

You can design your own Pentium III desktop system at **Kaypro,** but the custom configurator doesn't offer as much flexibility as we'd like. The site's notebook area carries a selection of Fujitsu portables.

microexpress.net

Micro Express offers built-to-order desktop and notebook computers featuring AMD and Intel processors. Each system includes a 30-day guarantee and a two- or four-year warranty. Business leases are available.

micronpc.com

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **micronpc.com** sells computers to home-office users, larger businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside the United States. The Factory Outlet offers refurbished and discontinued systems.

nutrend.com

Custom-configure a home or business desktop PC at **NuTrend Computer Products.** The company stocks a wide selection of machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

sagernotebook.com

Specializing in notebook computers, **Sager** offers a variety of options, from budget machines to speedy multimedia units. Service includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee and lifetime free tech support. Business leases are available.



shopprostar.com

Each computer in **ProStar Computer's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy-repair promise, and free tech support. The handy comparison tool helps buyers zero in on the best model for their needs.

sonystyle.com

SonyStyle sells Sony's line of VAIO desktops and notebooks, plus digital cameras, displays, and storage devices. The Xtras Direct section of the site carries add-ons for PCs, digital cameras, and other equipment.

store.apple.com

Apple Computer's online store looks just like an iMac, all shiny and clean. This well-designed site allows you to custom-configure any Macintosh computer and offers a wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories. Beware the one-click ordering feature, however—using it may be a bit too convenient for impulse buyers!

tiny.com

Britain's favorite direct computer seller is now targeting us Yanks. **Tiny Computers'** line of prebuilt desktop and notebook PCs includes models for professionals and first-time buyers.

unitedmicro.com

United Micro offers a unique degree of configurability with its desktop and server PCs. Choosy shoppers can, for instance, pick the motherboard model and brand of cooling fan. You can see pictures of each component before you build the system.

www.winbook.com

Focusing exclusively on portables, **WinBook Computer Corp.** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support. Ironically, some of the site's best deals, the daily "Web specials," can only be ordered by phone.

windrover.com

Windrover serves up a 30-day return policy and three-year warranty for all of its prebuilt and custom-configured laptops. Optional extended warranties include express service and 24/7 technical support.

PC RESOURCES

cablemodeminfo.com

CableModemInfo.com serves up reviews of cable-modem and DSL hardware, plus tips on sharing a modem between PCs. The site can help you find a cable-ready ISP in your area.

www.consumersearch.com

ConsumerSearch collects abstracts of product reviews for all sorts of products, including computers, appliances, sports equipment, and automobiles. Each abstract includes a citation (for magazine articles) or a link (for online reviews).

dailyedeals.com

DailyeDeals' coupon pages offer codes that will instantly shave $5 to $40 off the bottom line at major online retailers. The First Time area links to substantial discounts for first-time customers.

dcresource.com

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers can glean necessary info from the FAQ page, buyer's guide, message boards, and reviews.

dealtime.com

DealTime.com is an independent comparison-shopping service. The site aggregates prices from hundreds of online merchants, auctions, and classified sites. Also, 21st-century shoppers can compare *prices by cell phone or* wireless PDA, thanks to the site's mobile service.

www.epubliceye.com

Watchdog **ePublicEye.com** serves up a rating site that helps shoppers choose online businesses that deliver the best customer service. Available in six languages, the site employs "secret shoppers" who patronize Internet businesses, conducting audits and rating the service of each.

expertcity.com

Expertcity.com promises live, 24-hour computer assistance from real human beings. When you pose a question, experts across the Internet bid for your business. Read their profiles, compare prices, then choose the expert you like.

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 167

my new pc doesn't raise the bar. it obliterates it.





DELL™ DIMENSION™ 8100 Series

NEW—Cutting-Edge Technology

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor at 1.3GHz
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- 19" (18.0" vis) M991 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA™ TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive ■ SB Live! Value Digital
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 Ethernet Controller
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- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

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Introducing the All-New Dell™ Dimension™ 8100 with an Intel® Pentium® 4 processor. Over-the-top performance for those who can handle it.

The Dell™ Dimension™ 8100 takes you to the next level and then some. We're talking speeds starting at 1.3GHz maximized by the latest Intel® Pentium® 4 processors. With up to 1GB of memory, you can multi-task without sacrificing performance. Arming you with quite possibly the fastest and most powerful desktop you've ever seen is just one more way Dell helps you get the most out of your PC. No matter how extreme your needs are.

intel inside pentium® 4

DELL4me.com

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Includes Windows Millennium Edition — the home version of the world's favorite software.

[10]Telephone access (call your phone co. for details) and other surcharges for access may apply. Must register within 30 days of receiving computer and accept DellNet/MSN Terms of Service.

for newer technology, you'd need government clearance.

Dell's latest and greatest technology can be yours with or without the background check.

So you forgot to return a few library books and couldn't get into the FBI Academy. Well, here at Dell™, we don't discriminate. All of our customers are afforded the latest and greatest technology. Like the Inspiron™ 4000, the ultimate balance of uncompromising performance and mobility. And, of course, we have all of the latest in printers, scanners, and software. So call on us to help build your perfect system or choose from one of the great systems below. Even easier than getting a library card.



Dell™ Inspiron™ 4000 Notebook

DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 3800

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- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 3D® Video
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Limited Warranty[2]
- 1-Yr Mail-in Service
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$1199 or as low as **$36** per mo. 45 mos.[12]

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- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular Removable 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 128 3D® Video
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Limited Warranty[2]
- 1-Yr Mail-in Service
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

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DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

Multimedia Mobile Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz
- 15" Super XGA+ TFT Display
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Fixed 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- 4X AGP 32MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M4 3D® Video
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery ■ harman/kardon® Audio
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
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- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
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Advanced Performance, Smart Value

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- 64MB SDRAM at 133MHz
- 20GB[5] Ultra ATA/100 Hard Drive
- 17" (16.0" vis) E770 Monitor
- 16MB ATI Rage™ 128 Pro Video Card
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- harman/kardon® Speakers
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DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4100 Series

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- 32MB NVIDIA™ TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive ■ SB Live! Value Digital
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2001
- MS® Windows® Me
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- 4X AGP 32MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M4 3D® Video
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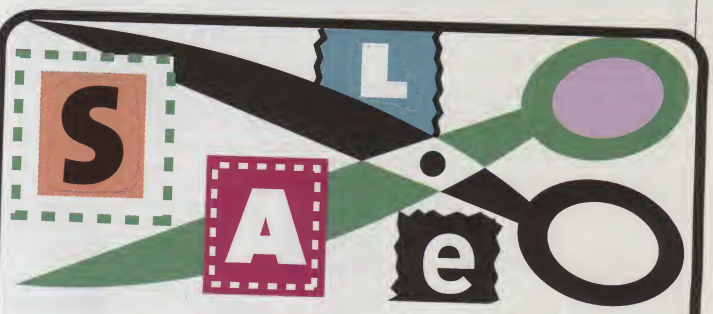
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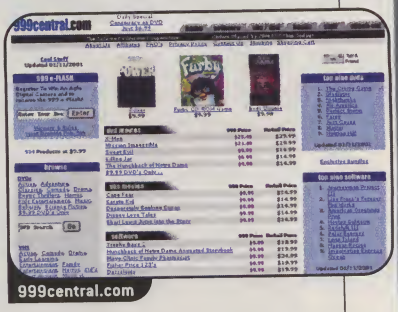
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Intel Pentium III 866	**$ 1135**	CF303
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AMD ATHLON 900	$ 1515	CK305
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- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
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- ATX Medium Tower Cose w/ 250 Watt UL
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Intel Pentium III 866	$ 1099	C3073
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- PS2 Win98 Multimedio Keyboard
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- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 300 Watt UL
- Microsoft Windows Millennium or 9B 2nd Edition
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AMD ATHLON 1GHZ	$ 1349	CL303
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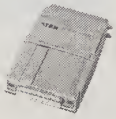
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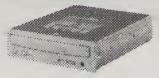
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Cables for these switch boxes, please check our website

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XDBSMTIP.....purple.....**$6.95**

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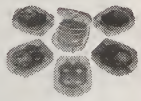
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- HDB15 male to HDB15 male.

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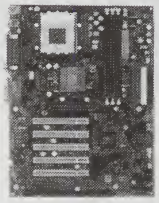
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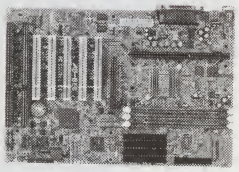
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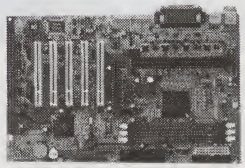
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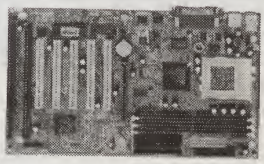
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- Do not supports AMD Athlon Thunderbird.
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- 5 PCI, 2 ISA, 1 AGP Slot.

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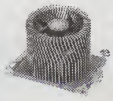
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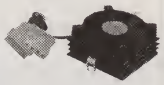
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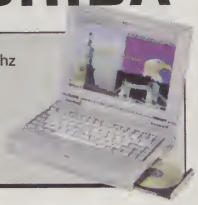
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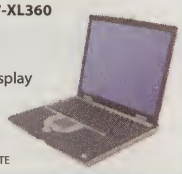
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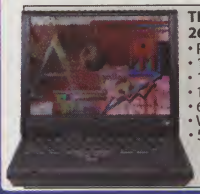
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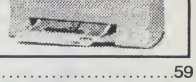
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ABIT www.abit-usa.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ABVA6	PIII-733	4	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$77
ABVL6	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$87
ABKA7	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$119
ABBX133-RAID	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$122
ABBE6II-RAID	PIII-1000	5	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$124
ABSL6	FCPGA	6	CNR	1	3/168	815E	ATX	$127
ABKT7	FCPGA	6	1	1	3/168	KT133	ATX	$134
ABKA7-100	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$134
ABSH6	PIII-1000	6	CNR	1	4/168	815E	ATX	$137
ABSE6	FCPGA	6	CNR	1	3/168	815E	ATX	$139
ABKT7-RAID	FCPGA	6	1	1	3/168	KT133	ATX	$156
ABSA6R	FCPGA	6	CNR	1	4/168	815E	ATX	$157
ABVP6	DUAL	5		1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$169

ASUS www.asus.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ASP5AB-WOA	SOCKET7	3	2	1	3/168	M1541	AT	$92
ASP5A-WOA	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	$89
ASP3V4X	PII-733	6	1	1	4/168	VIA133	ATX	$110
ASCUV4X	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$110
ASCUBX-E	FCPGA	6		1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$119
ASCUSL2-C	FCPGA	6	2CNR	1	3/168	815EP	ATX	$122
ASP3BF5P	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$124
ASP3BF	PII-600	6	1	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$124
ASA7V-WOA	SOCKET A K7	5		1+AMR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$141
ASCUSL2	FCPGA	6	2CNR	1	3/168	815E	ATX	$144
ASP3CE	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$187
ASP2BD	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$268
ASP4T	P4	5		1	4/RIMM	850	ATX	$304
ASP3CD	DUAL	5		1	3/RIMM	820	ATX	$342
ASP3CS	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$419
ASP3CLS	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	$454
ASCUR-DLS	DUAL	7		ASMS	4/168	SRVRWKS	ATX	$669

FIC www.fica.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
FICPA-2013	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	$63
FICVA-503+	SOCKET7	3	3	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$69
FICFA13	FCPGA	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$78
FICFB11	FCPGA	5	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$83
FICFA11	FCPGA	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$84
FICVB-601	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	$86
FICAZ11	SOCKET A K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$95
FICAZ11E	SOCKET A K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$113

intel www.intel.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
INSE2440BXO	PII-700	3	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$98
INVC820WA	PIII-933	5	1	AMR2/RIMM		820	ATX	$99
IND815EEA	370-933	5		CNR	3/168	815E	ATX	$116
IND815EEAL	370-933	5	LAN		3/168	815E	ATX	$129
INSE2440BXA	PII-700	3	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	$131
IND850GB	P4	5		1	4/RIMM	850	ATX	$244
IND850GBAL	P4	5	LAN	1	4/RIMM	850	ATX	$279

MICROSTAR www.msicomputer.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
MICMS-6195	K7	6	1	1	3/168	AMD	ATX	$104
MICK7TPRO2	SCKT A K7	6		1+CNR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$107
MICK7TPRO-66	SCKT A K7	6		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$112
MIC815EPRO	370-933	6		CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	$112
MICK7TPRO2-A	SCKT A K7	6		1+CNR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$117
MIC694DPRO-66	DUAL370	5		1+CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	$122
MICK7TPRO-100	SCKTAK7	6		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$129
MIC694DPRO-AR	DUAL370	5		1+CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	$147
MICK7TMAST	SCKT A K7	6		1+CNR	4/168	VIA	ATX	$269
MIC850PRO	P4	5		1+CNR	4/RIMM	850	ATX	$286

GIGABYTE www.giga-byte.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
GBGA-5AAR3	SOCKET7	3	2	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$73
GBGA-5AXR5	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$73
GBGA-6VXE+	PIII-866	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$82
GBGA-6VA7+	370-866	4	2	1	3/168	VIA	AT	$84
GBGA-6VXE7+	370-866	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$86
GBGA-6VX7-4X	370-866	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	$94
GBGA-7IXE4	SOCKET A K7	5	2	1	3/168	AMD	ATX	$99
GBGA-7ZX-1	SOCKET A K7	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$116
GBGA-7ZM	SOCKET A K7	3	AMR	1	3/168	VIA	MATX	$119
GBGA-7ZX	SOCKET A K7	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$126
GBGA-7VXDC7	DUAL370	5	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$150
GBGA-7ZXR	SOCKET A K7	5	1	1+AMR	3/168	VIA	ATX	$164
GBGA-6VXD7	DUAL370	5	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	$191
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ALL CPU'S HAVE A 1 YEAR WARRANTY WHEN PURCHASED WITH A CPU FAN.

intel www.intel.com

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INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA 700MHZ 128K	$88
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA 733MHZ 128K	$114
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA 766MHZ 128K	$162
INTEL	CELERON-A FCPGA 800MHZ 128K	$194
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INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 700MHZ 256K FCPGA	$154
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS 733MHZ 256K FCPGA	$176
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 750MHZ 256K FCPGA	$176
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 800MHZ 256K FCPGA	$195
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS 800MHZ 256K FCPGA	$195
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 850MHZ 256K FCPGA	$234
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS 866MHZ 256K FCPGA	$234
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS 933MHZ 256K FCPGA	$349
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INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 700MHZ 256K SECC	$159
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS 733MHZ 256K SECC	$179
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 750MHZ 256K SECC	$179
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 800MHZ 256K SECC	$199
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INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS 850MHZ 256K SECC	$237
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AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD .P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$97
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD .P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$127
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AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD .P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$339
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$99
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$102
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$117
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$132
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CREATIVE www.creative.com

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64MB	16X36	60NS	$139
128MB	32X36	60NS	$364

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64MB	16X32 EDO	60NS	$53
128MB	32X32 EDO	60NS	$226

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64MB	8X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$97
64MB	8X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$132
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128MB	16X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$184
128MB	16X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$209
256MB	32X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$417

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32MB	4X64	10NS	$20
64MB	8X64	10NS	$38
128MB	16X64	10NS	$72

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64MB	8X64	8NS	$28
64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$28
64MB	8X72	8NS	$37
128MB	16X64	8NS	$48
128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$50
128MB	16X72	8NS	$64
128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS	$66
256MB	32X64	8NS	$94
256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$94
256MB	32X72	8NS	$119
256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS	$124
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512MB PC133	64X72	7.5NS	$449

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MATG45032DDR	G450 32MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	$134
MATG45032DDRBOX	G450 32MB, DDR AGP RETAIL(DUAL)	$147

ATI www.atitech.com

ATIX988A	EXPERT 98 AGP OEM VER 8MB	$35
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ATIRF16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB	$53
ATIX200032A	EXPERT 2000 AGP OEM VER 32MB	$63
ATIX2KPRO32A	EXPERT 2000PRO AGP OEM VER 32MB	$81
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ATIRFPR32ATV	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	$103
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ATIAIW12832P	ALL-IN-WONDER PCI OEM 32MB W/TV	$167
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STB www.stb.com

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ASUS www.asus.com

ASV710016A	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP 16MB	$91
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ASV710032ATV	GEFORCE-2 MX W/TV AGP 32MB	$119
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ASV7700DEL32A	GEFORCE-2 DEL AGP 32MB DDR	$232
ASV7700P64A	GEFORCE-2 AGP 64MB DDR	$307
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HARD DRIVES

IDE DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD100AB	10000	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$96
WD100EB	10200	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$99
WD200EB	20000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$104
WD200AB	20500	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$104
WD205BA	20500	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$113
WD200BB	20000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$113
WD307AA	30700	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$114
WD300BB	30000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
WD450AA	45000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$142
WD400BB	40000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$157

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM307015	15000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$114
IBM307020	20000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$127
IBM305030	30000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$137
IBM305040	40000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$139
IBM307030	30000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$142
IBM307045	45000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$159
IBM307060	60000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$262
IBM307075	75000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$357

Maxtor® www.maxtor.com

ALL MAXTOR IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX204-5400	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$109
MAX153-7200	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$111
MAX307-5400	30700	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$111
MAX204-7200	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$119
MAX409-5400	40900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
MAX307-7200	30700	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
MAX409-7200	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$167
MAX461-7200	46100	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$172
MAX614-5400	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$204
MAX819-5400	81900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$265

SCSI DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$144
WDE9150-0050	9100	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$159
WDE18310-0040	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$232
WDE18310-0050	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$269

Seagate www.seagate.com

ALL SEAGATE SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$207
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$217
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$217
ST39236LWV	9200	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$222
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$314
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$314
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$314
ST318436LWV	18400	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$326
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$357
ST318451LW	18400	5.2MS/15,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$469
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$592
ST336704LWV	36700	5.2MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$604
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$1084
ST173404LWV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$1114
ST173404LCV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$1129

REMOVABLES

IOMEGA www.iomega.com

IOZIP100IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM	$52
IOZIP250IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM	$77
IOZIP100USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB EXT ZIP	USB	$117
IOZIP250USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB EXT ZIP	USB	$164
IOSCSI2GBINT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB INT JAZ	SCSI	$262
IOSCSI2GBEXT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB EXT JAZ	SCSI	$314

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CONTROLLERS

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC. www.promisetechnology.com

PRULTRA66	ULTRA ATA66 PCI 4 HARD DRIVE	$24
PRULTRA100	ULTRA ATA100 PCI 4 HARD DRIVE	$49
PRFASTRAK100	ULTRA ATA100 RAID PCI	$82

Adaptec www.adaptec.com

AD2940AUOEM	ULTRA SCSI BUS MSTR 20MB/SEC OEM	$151
AD2940UWPROOEM	ULTRA 2 PCI 80MB/SEC OEM	$184
AD29160OEM	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC OEM	$195
AD19160KIT	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC RETAIL	$214
AD2940U2WOEM	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 80MB/SEC OEM	$219
AD29160KIT	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC RETAIL	$283

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

ALL TOSHIBA IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
T04313MAT	4300	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/8.4MM	$103
T06014MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$116
T01016GAP	10000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$127
T01214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$167
T02016GAP	20000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$187

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBMDARA-206000	6000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$119
IBMDJSA-21000010000		12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$127
IBMDARA-21200012000		12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$172
IBMDJSA-22000020000		12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$187
IBMDJSA-230000		30000	12MS/4200		512K

NETWORK CARDS

3Com www.3com.com

3C905BTXNM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT NO REMOTE WAKE PCI	$41
3C905CTXM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT W/REMOTE WAKE PCI	$43

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TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TO48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	256K	$52
TOSDM1402OEM	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	$90

MITSUMI www.mitsumi.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MIT48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$36
MIT4804OEM	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	$94
MIT4804KIT	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI RETAIL	135MS	2048K	$139

YAMAHA www.yamaha.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8824EZKIT	8X/8X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$167
YACRW8824SZOEM	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$207
YACRW8824SZKIT	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$209
YACRW8824SXZ	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$269
YACRW2100EZKIT	16X/10X/40X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$269
YACRW2100SZKIT	16X/10X/40X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$309

SONY www.sony.com

SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$40
SYCRX140ECHOEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$152
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$162
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$189
SYCRX160E/CH	12X/8X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$247
SYCRX145S/CH	10X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	$249

www.spartantech.com

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MODEMS

3Com www.3com.com

3C3595	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/WIN	$31
3C3594	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	$34
3C2975	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NO VOICE	$38
3C2974	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	$36
3C2977	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	$57
3C2976	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	$61

CREATIVE www.creative.com

CLDI5655	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 VOICE	$25
CLDI5660	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 NON WIN	$25

MONITORS

ViewSonic www.viewsonic.com

VIE55	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$152
VIM50	15"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$159
VIG653	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$184
VIGA655	15"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$204
VIE70	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$209
VIE771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$217
VIE773	17"	.25DP	1280 X 1024	$236
VIGS773	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$257
VIG773	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$269
VIPS775	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$309
VIE790	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$329
VIGA771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$369
VIG90M	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$399
VIPF790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$449
VIPS790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$484
VIG810	21"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$709
VIP810	21"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$779
VIGS815	21"	.25DP	1920 X 1440	$799
VIP220F	22"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$809
VIP817	21"	.25DP	2048 X 1536	$1439
VIVG151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$959
VIVP150M	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$1029
VIVP151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$1399
VIVG181	LCD MONITOR 18.1" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$2549

RELYSIS www.relysis.com

RETE555	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$122
RETE770	17"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$172
RETE786T	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$177
RETE786H	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$199
RETE988	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$269

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330W	75
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Price	ATX	SS	AT/ATT
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250W	40	40	45
300/350W	55/80	55	65
400W	130	130	130
500W	N/A	N/A	230
600W	N/A	N/A	300

ACCESSORIES

586/PII CPU HEATSINK W/ FAN	$10/15
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MODEL/ SPECS	Bare Bone	Dimension W.D.H	I/O ports	5.25"	3.5"	PCI	PCI ISA
103LPX socket 370	330	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2/1	or 1
104NLXBX slot 1	460	11.2x13.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO,GAME	w/FD & Slim CD		2/1	or 1
108NLXB/W socket 370	310	12.5x16x4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO,GAME, IR	1	1/1	2/1	or 1
108NLXBX B/W slot 1	375	12.5x16x4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME, IR	Slim CD(opt)	1/1	2/1	or 1
106 socket 7	260	12.4x14.5x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2	or 0
169LPX socket 370	255	12.5x14.3x3.4	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO, GAME	1	1/1	2/1	or 1
182LPX socket 7	260	13.75x15.2x2.9	PS2 KB,mouse,VGA,USB,RJ45,2S,1P,AUDIO	0	2/0	0	or 2
192 370/II Micro ATX	220	12.1x16.5x3.5	PS2 KB, mouse, VGA,2S,1P,AUDIO	1	1/1	2	& 0

Case Specification & Price List

Model	Price	Dimension W.D.H.	MB Size	5.25 Ext.	3.5 Int.	P.S.
RO2BWBARE	300	19x17.6x3.5	M.ATX	1/0	1/1	150W
R04B/W	290	19x24.3x3.5	ATX	1/0	1/3	250W
R08 B/W	1675/2300	19x22x3.5				
R12 B/W/X	305	19x19.7x7	B/ATX	4/0	1/0	250W/250X
R14 B/W/X	230	19x21x7	B/ATX	3/0	1/3	300X
R15	325/550	19x24.4x7	ATX	6/0	2/2	300X/300RX
R16 B/W/X	240	19x18x7	B/ATX	3/0	1/2	250W/250X
R20 B/W	290	19x15.75x7		8/0		300W
R21 B/W	290	19x18x7		8/0		300W
R22X/RXB/W	635/900	19x23.3x10.5	ATX	8/0	1/0	300X/300RX
R26X/RX/B/W	630/850	19x22.6x10.7	ATX	4/0	2/4	300X/300RX
R28	290	19x17x8.7		8/0		300W
RSP	18	5.8x9.3x1.6			1	
RSM168/179	65/75	5.8x9.3x1.6			1	
001B	75	10x11.5x3		1/0		60W
001B1	65	8.3x10.6x2.8		1/0		50W
002B	88	6.9x14.6x5.8		2/0		60W
002B1	78	7.5x11.2x6.5		2/0		80W
004B	105	6.8x15.3x9.3		4/0		230W
004B1	100	7.5x17.3x10.2		4/0		200W
007B	180	7x15.8x13		7/0		250W
008B	280	8.4x20.2x18.3		8/0		300W
008B1	180	7.5x17.9x17.1		8/0		250W
103LPX	330	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	85W
104NLX	460 II	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	85W
106LPX-7	300	12.4x14.5x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	85W
108NLX bare	310/375 II	11x13.6x3.4	NLX	1/0	1/1	135W
169LPX	255	12.5x14.3x3.4	LPX	1/0	1/1	150W
182LPX	260	13.75x15.2x2.9	LPX		2/0	150W
192M.ATX	85	13.1x16.5x3.5	M.ATX	1/0	1/1	150W
224	75	17.4x18.8x6.1	ATX	3/0	2/2	230X
267	75	16.8x16.8x6.2	ATX	2/0	2/1	250X
271	90	17.3x15.9x5.5	ATX	2/0	1/1	250XB
288	75	16.9x17x6	ATX	3/0	2/1	230X
325B	75	8x18.5x17	ATX	3/0	2/1	235X
327	72	7.5x16.5x17.3	ATX	3/0	2/2	230X
338	55	7x14.7x13.8	M. ATX	2/0	2/1	145W
370	89	8.3x17.3x16.1	ATX	3/0	2/2	250WB
382B	70	7.8x19.8x14.5	ATX	3/0	2/1	250X
383	85	8.3x16.8x16.1	ATX	3/0	1/3	230X
391	80	7.5x17x17	ATX	3/0	2/2	250X
393	95	9x17.5x17.5	ATX	6/0	1/1	250X
396	55	8.3x17x15.5	ATX	3/0	1/3	230X
401X	110	8.5x17.3x18	ATX	2/0	2/2	250X
408	80	8.2x19.8x18.4	ATX	3/0	1/5	250X
411	67	7.2x17.2x16.8	ATX	4/0	2/1	250X
412	67	7.2x17.2x16.8	ATX	4/0	1/2	250X
413S/BL	67	8.5x19.5x18	ATX	4/0	2/1	250X
418	75	7.5x16.8x19.3	ATX	3/0	3/1	230X
422	70	7.7x16.6x18.1	AT	4/0	1/4	250W
424	70	7.5x18.9x16.7	ATX	4/0	2/1	250X
426B/W	80	7.5x17.5x19.3	ATX	3/0	2/2	250X
436	70/85	8.6x18x15.6	ATX	3/0	2/2	250/300X
455	110	8.5x17.5x18.6	ATX	4/0	2/3	250X
456	85	7.5x17.8x17	ATX	3/0	2/3	250X
465	195	9.3x17x17.2	XEON/ATX	2/0	2/2	300X
468	85/100	7.5x16.7x18.8	ATX	3/0	2/4	250X/300X
470	110	8.3x17.3x21.3	ATX	4/1	1/2	250XB
482B	80	7.8x19.8x17.5	ATX	4/0	2/2	250X
483B/W	90	8.3x18.8x17.3	ATX	4/0	1/3	250WX
486	67	9.6x19.5x17	ATX	4/0	2/1	250WX
489**	85	7.3x17x17	ATX	3/0	1/2	235X
496	60	8.25x17.8x16.5	ATX	4/0	1/3	250X
501	165	8.25x17.2x23.8	ATX	4/0	2/4	300X
503RX/B/P	455	14.8x20.4x18.4	ATX	8/0	2/4	300RX
503X/B/P	305	14.8x20.4x18.4	ATX	8/0	2/4	300X
505X	555	14.6x23x26.8	ATX	12/0	1/8	300X
505RX	705	14.6x23x26.8	ATX	12/0	1/8	300RX
506X/RX	155/370	7.8x16.5x24.4	ATX	6/0	2/2	300X/300RX
518	105/120	7.5x16.6x24.4	ATX	6/0	3/1	230X/300X
524	380	13.9x25.6x19.1	ATX	7/0	1/2	300RX
526B/W	105/120	7.5x17.5x24.5	ATX	6/0	1/3	250X/300X
528	95/110	7.5x16.5x24.8	ATX	6/0	1/5	250X/300X
536X	93/108	7.8x17x24	ATX	5/0	1/5	250X/300X
538	290	8x20.5x24.5	ATX	5/0	1/6	300RX
541X	99/114	7.5x16.6x25.2	ATX	6/0	1/5	250X/300X
555B/W/R	440/680	11x19.3x23.6	F	4/8	0/0	400W/300R
555X/RX	440/700	11x19.3x23.6	ATX	4/8	0/0	300X/300RX
560X/RX	290/445	15x24.5x23.5	ATX	11/0	2/4	300X/300RX
562X/R/B/W	250/470	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	9/1	1/0	300X/300RX
563X/RB/W	145/370	8.7x17.9x26.8	ATX	10/0		300X/300RX
565	195	9.25x18.3x21.2	XEON/ATX	4/0	2/4	300X
568	105/120	7.5x17x22.8	ATX	5/0	2/4	250X/300X
569/X/B/W	225	13.5x17.8x14	B/ATX	6/2	0/8	300W/300X
570X/RX	150/370	8.3x17.3x25.4	ATX	7/1	1/2	300X/300RX
571X/RX	160/370	8.3x17.3x26.4	ATX	6/1	1/2	300X/300RX
582	105/120	7.8x16.5x23.2	ATX	6/0	2/1	250X/300X
588	105/120	7.8x16.5x23.3	ATX	5/0	1/3	250X/300X
1400R/RX	715	16x20x24	E/ATX	14/0		300RX
1640R/RX	715	16.5x20.3x24.5	F/ATX	16/0		300RX

Case Color: Blue, Purple, Green, Orange, Red.

**Case Color: Blue, Purple, Green, Red, Black.

Model# Starts with:

1 for Slim Case
2 for Desktop Case
3 for Mini-Mid Case
4 for Mid Case
5 for Full/File Server Case
Side Open: Side Panel can be removed independently
Side Door: Sliding front door up and down
Slide MB Plate: Motherboard tray ca slide in and out form rear

MB SIZE = MOTHERBOARD SIZE • F= FULL SIZE • B= BABY SIZE
X=ATX • M. ATX= Micro ATX
R= REDUNDANT POWER SUPPLY WITH HARDSWAP
250XB= Ball Bearing

Business Buyer

Execs Seek Lessons in Failure

As the dust settles around decimated e-businesses, executives and investors search for the fatal flaws so they can avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Just what were these mistakes? Overenthusiasm, underpreparedness, and pressure to get e-businesses up and running at the speed of light all contributed to many of the online disaster stories, according to a panel of e-business experts at the recent **eBusiness Conference and Expo** in New York.

"Exuberance overrode fundamental economic principles," concluded Mark Teflian, president of Time0 in Cambridge, Mass. And many companies refused to heed the warnings. "Those who were cautionary didn't get the business," he added.

In their excitement, many e-businesses overlooked the basics. "We lost sight of something, which is, an idea is not a company," said Sayan Chatterjee, professor of management policy at Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University.



Inexperience also caused many e-business failures, as companies ignored the immaturity of many technologies, panelists concurred. What's more, companies also focused on the wrong strategies. At Priceline, for instance, the emphasis was on simply attracting visitors because that was the easiest thing to do.

"We spent all our time and money getting eyeballs," said Steve Mott, former president of Priceline WebHouse Club and CEO of BetterBuyDesign. "You get caught up in your own PR."

Management teams were often ill-equipped, with inexperienced staffers thrown into marketing, financial, and even technical positions. "They were learning on the job," said Jeffrey Wu, CEO of Claritas, LLC. "It was like the blind leading the blind."

Panelists urged attendees to construct solid business plans. "You need a clear mandate and a clear set of budgetary constraints," Wu said.

"Information integration needs to be a centerpiece," added Teflian. "Otherwise, the transactions won't flow."

—Donna Tapellini

B2B Trading Hubs Grow

Despite struggles, executives maintain confidence in B2B exchanges.

- 31 percent of e-businesses surveyed say a B2B trading hub, or digital marketplace, is an essential competitive tool. Another 48 percent say it will be a year from now.
- 64 percent have already established a digital marketplace, either on their own (51 percent) or in an alliance with others (13 percent).
- 33 percent have realized a return of an average 29 percent.
- 42 percent cited up-front investment as the greatest challenge. Long-term viability and training were also significant concerns.

Source: Arthur Andersen survey on Digital Marketplaces, based on responses from 105 high-level executives from large and midsize companies ($300 million-plus annual sales)

ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

M-Commerce Takes Aim at 'Moving' Target

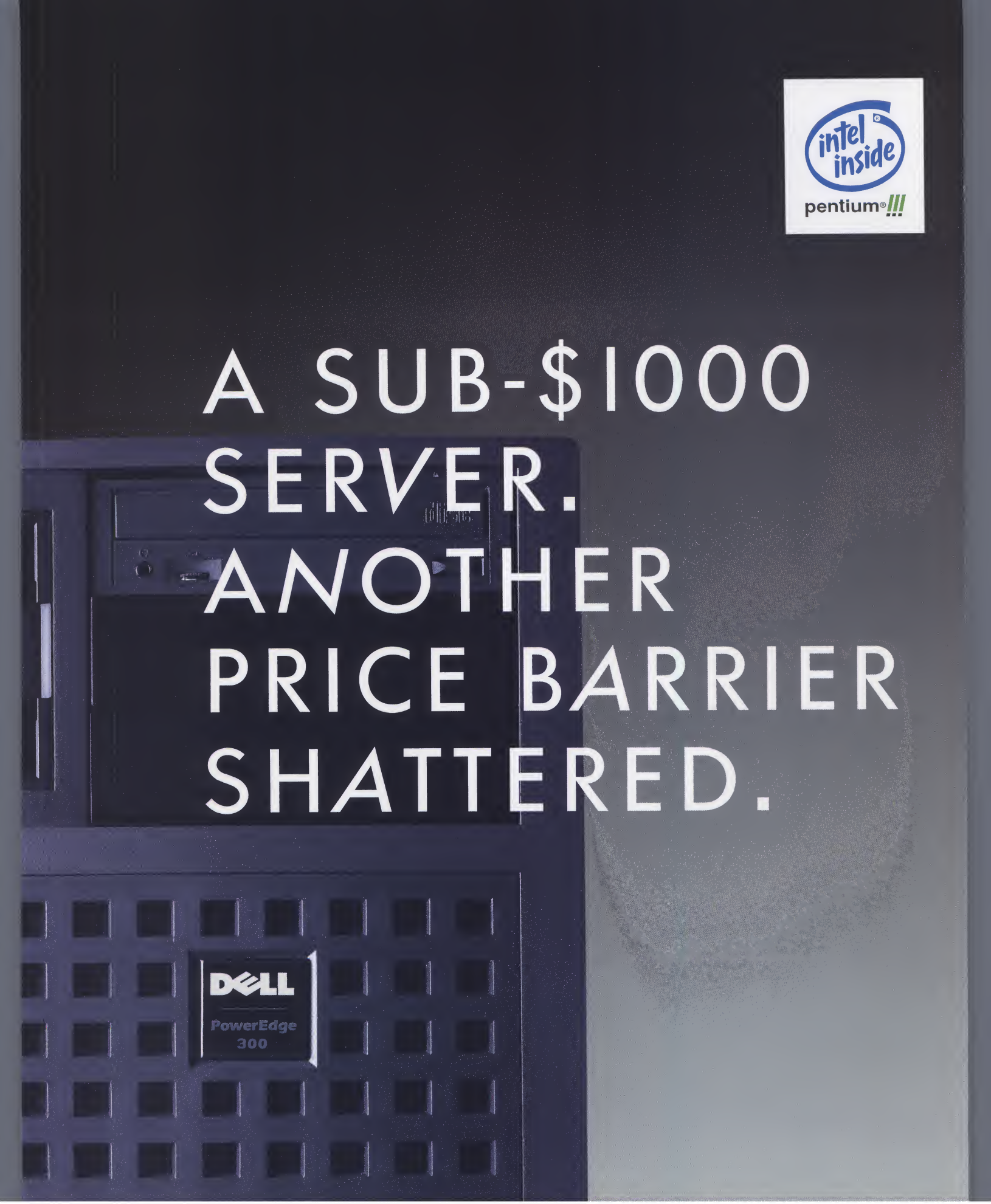
Mobile commerce may be off to a slow start in the United States, but there's no shortage of mobile workers in need of apps. To address their needs, companies have shifted into high gear to introduce m-commerce-based solutions for the mobile workforce. Cellmania *(www.cellmania.com)*, for one, recently introduced a platform called mEnterprise that's built to deliver mobile content, transactions, and communications. The product lets its customers and software developers build location- and time-sensitive applications.

The platform is ideal for businesses with field staff, such as insurance companies and manufacturers, says Cellmania. These mobile workers can download content from the home office to their handheld devices or cell phones. The company says mEnterprise may also appeal to those in the retail or hospitality field.

Mobile workers can write rules to control promotions and pricing, for instance, without help from their IT departments, using a related product called mEnterprise Business Station.



In the m-commerce space, a Chicago company called ScheduleMe *(www.scheduleme.com)* has used the mEnterprise platform to create an app for hotels and resorts. The software lets guests schedule spa, golf, and tennis appointments using their mobile devices. *—D.T.*


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E-SERVICES AND TOOLS

Financial Aides

BY LYNN GINSBURG

Keep your business in the black with free online financial advice from Intuit and Microsoft.

MOST COMPANIES AGREE THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF BEING IN BUSINESS is to make money. That part is simple. The hard part is understanding how much money your company is actually making, and finding the smartest way to keep that money and make more.

To help you find the most useful financial tools for your small business, we looked at Intuit's Quicken.com ***(www.quicken.com)***, and Microsoft Corp.'s bCentral ***(www.bcentral.com)*** and MSN MoneyCentral ***(www.moneycentral.com)***. All three offer valuable financial tools and information. It should come as no surprise the companies behind these sites are the leading contenders in the financial-software market, backing rival products Quicken and Microsoft Money.

The real winner of these companies' intense rivalry is you, as both try to outdo each other with a variety of high-end online financial services and tools. The best thing about these sites is their basic services are free, so you won't have to dip into your "income" column to get up to speed on corporate finance, financial planning, and the ins and outs of taxes and insurance.

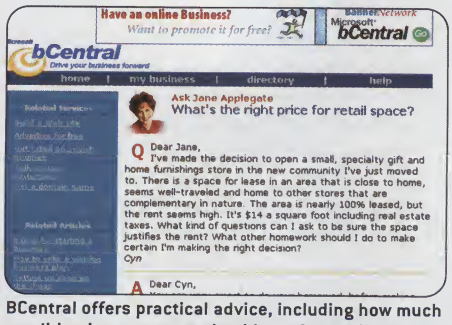
QUICKEN.COM

For one-stop business-finance information, Quicken.com takes first prize. The site includes an entire section aimed at small business. This section offers articles covering a range of topics, including finance basics and information on government financing programs, handling taxes and accounting, understanding liability-insurance issues, safeguarding your personal and business assets, and investing in growing your business.

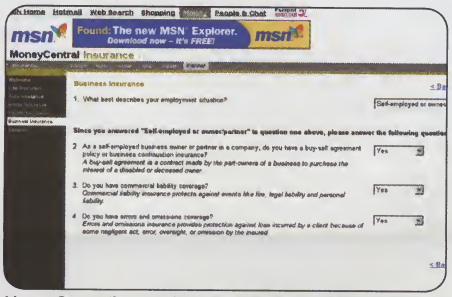
Quicken.com can also help with the nuts and bolts of managing your company's finances by providing a comprehensive set of tools such as downloadable sample balance sheets, templates for income statements, monthly bank reconciliations, and sample collection letters. The site even offers advice on completing a business loan application by providing a sample bank review form, showing what banks tend to look for in potential loan applicants.



Quicken.com's bountiful business offerings include this how-to guide for providing employee benefits.



BCentral offers practical advice, including how much small-business owners should pay for retail space.



MoneyCentral's tools include a guide for selecting the best type and amount of business-insurance coverage.

MICROSOFT BCENTRAL AND MSN MONEYCENTRAL

At Microsoft's small-business site, bCentral, you'll find a wide variety of articles pertaining to small-business finance, such as how to improve your company's cash flow, how to borrow without getting a business loan, tax tips for starting a small business, and how to determine the right price for retail space. However, bCentral lacks Quicken.com's wide offering of interactive financial tools and step-by-step financial information.

MSN MoneyCentral focuses solely on consumer financial issues, but many of its tools are suitable for business users as well. The site offers free quotes on auto, home, life, and health insurance. You can also check local interest rates for mortgages, auto insurance, and credit cards. You'll also find premium services such as online bill paying, online banking, credit reports, and tax preparation.

Although you'll find comparable services in Quicken.com's consumer-finance sections, you won't find comparable small-business services at MSN MoneyCentral. To obtain this type of business-centric financial information, check out bCentral.

ADVICE YOU CAN TAKE TO THE BANK

Ultimately, the small-business finance site you prefer may depend on whether you use either company's financial software. Both Money and Quicken users will find many tie-ins between the Web sites and their respective offline software, including the ability to enter items online that you can download later into offline accounts, and the ability to view your offline accounts on the Web (available at MSN MoneyCentral and Quicken.com).

All three sites offer an array of finance assistance for your business that won't cost a penny. Quicken.com has the edge for small businesses by offering a wealth of information, tools, and services all in one place. You can find comparable offerings by combining the content and tools provided by bCentral and MSN MoneyCentral, but you'll have to dig a *little* deeper and travel between the two sites to find a full range of services geared toward small businesses. ▼

BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS

make cookies more appetizing

by Rich Castagna

How could it have happened? How could cookies have ended up such bitter pills to swallow? Simple: We're not talking about those tasty treats from the likes of Famous Amos or Mrs. Fields; we're talking about those little morsels ad servers place on surfers' hard drives. And there's been enough funny business, even abuse, of these digital droppings to cause legitimate concern, if not outright fear, among surfers.

Cookies may leave surfers with a bad taste in their mouths, but you can make *them more* palatable if you dole them out judiciously. We'll show you what cookies actually do, and how you can use them to the benefit of both you and your site visitors.

When the chips are down, cookies are still the best—and easiest—way to add advanced features to your site. The trick is to get your visitors to bite.

COOKIES CAN BE CRUMMY

The premise of the Internet cookie itself can be threatening to your customers. The idea that you could save a tiny file on your visitor's hard drive makes it clear the Web is a two-way street, and an unobtrusively deposited cookie could compromise that comfortable anonymity your visitors enjoy by allowing you to trace their tracks through cyberspace.

Worse yet, there's the concern a cookie may be more than just a passive nugget of information; it may actually do something to the recipient's system. In that context, a cookie may be considered as insidious as any virus.

Contempt for cookies is based largely on reports about how some sites and services—notably advertising servers—use cookies to tail visitors and determine viewing patterns. Based on those patterns, these servers selectively display advertisements that appeal to specific interests. For many, this behind-the-scenes sleuthing of personal Web use is nothing less than digital stalking.

To compound matters, some ad services—notably DoubleClick—have been caught red-handed matching individuals' surfing patterns to their names and other demographic data available in other databases. With incidents like that, it's clear advertisers can use otherwise innocent cookies to violate personal privacy. So it's no surprise so many people jigger their browser settings to alert them when sites attempt to plant cookies on their hard drives. Others take more extreme measures and set their browsers to reject cookies completely.

COURTEOUS COOKIES

All the unsavory publicity cookies have stirred up may lead you to conclude you should avoid the cookie monster at all costs if you want your site to succeed. But in some respects, cookies have gotten a bad rap. Many sites use them to improve a visitor's experience, but you rarely hear much about that benign variety. While a no-cookies policy may help ease anxieties, eschewing them completely could take away one of the best tools you have for creating an inviting—"sticky" in Web parlance—site that welcomes visitors and gives them reason to linger.

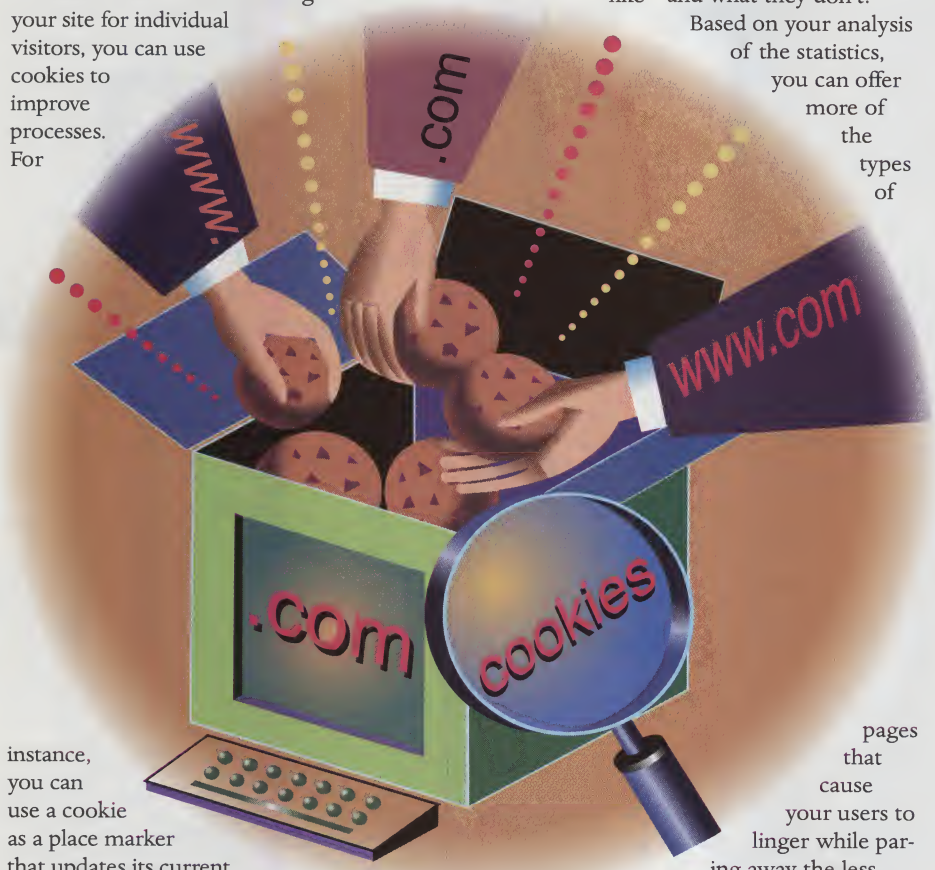
One of the best ways to create a site someone may want to return to is to let your visitors personalize their experiences. Personalization can take many forms, starting with something as simple as color and layout preferences. More sophisticated options could allow your visitors to display only selected information or other preferences such as favored search sites. A basic cookie application can speed a visitor's access to your site's goodies, reduce the number of visitors who quit because they can't remember passwords or IDs, and trigger many other personalization selections.

Using cookies is the easiest way to add "persistence" to a site—that is, to allow users continuity from visit to visit. A typical session lasts only as long as a visitor is at the site, and without cookies, all information related to the session essentially disappears when it ends or when the visitor's browser is closed. (This is commonly referred to as being "stateless.") You can set cookies to last for years to recall a previous session's activities.

Typically, you use a cookie at the beginning of the personalization process. Based

on some identifying criteria tucked away in the cookie, your Web site can tap a back-end database that stores personalization particulars, or kick off a script or other bit of code that revamps your site to the visitor's specifications.

Aside from custom-tailoring your site for individual visitors, you can use cookies to improve processes. For instance, you can use a cookie as a place marker that updates its current status as a visitor progresses through a particular process. This is a simple and effective way to let a visitor resume an interrupted process at a later time from the same point rather than start over. So a cookie can help restore a partially filled form, conjure up a shopping cart left brimming with products collected at your site, or recall a carefully crafted set of search criteria.



Another good cookie practice involves geographic personalization. You may offer information, much of which may be "location neutral," pertaining to visitors regardless of their location. But you may also offer links to services available only within certain geographic areas. If you use a cookie to identify a visitor's location, you can then be sure to offer only those services within reach without cluttering the screen with geographically remote—and therefore useless—information.

It may not leap out as an obvious benefit, but you can also use cookies to derive more accurate or detailed site-traffic data such as page turns, clicks on particular areas, and number of unique visitors. Though you can use this type of information to show advertisers how well you met their goals or for other more mercenary motives, you can also use the data to determine what your visitors like—and what they don't. Based on your analysis of the statistics, you can offer more of the types of pages that cause your users to linger while paring away the less popular ones.

ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

NOT A HALF-BAKED IDEA

How can you dish out cookies and expect more than just an occasional nibble? First, don't try to slip cookies past your visitors and expect the files to take up inconspicuous residence on their hard drives. Even if your motives are pure and your cookies nontoxic, just the fact that you tried to sneak them by will arouse suspicion and could tick off Web travelers enough to send them dashing for your site's door.

The most important rule of serving cookies: Ask first. And don't just say you want to put cookies on users' systems—tell them why. Explain the benefits of cookie ownership, how they'll make your site easier and more pleasant to use, and how they'll enable you to provide more timely and focused information. In short, sell the cookie.

But don't stop there. Spill the beans about your cookies, and tell visitors where the cookie will be on their systems, what the filename will be, and what kind of information it will store.

That still may not be enough to win over visitors who are convinced cookies are a stale idea. Take your disclosure a step further and pledge your site will never use cookies to capture personal or sensitive information such as credit-card and Social-Security numbers, or passwords that allow access to that type of information. To help lessen the likelihood of cookie-induced misunderstanding or mistrust, describe the contents of your cookies in detail, and even indicate when your site is reading or updating existing cookies. In short, the more you reveal about your cookie recipe, the more likely your visitors will bite. ▼

cook up a batch

Most site-building applications offer tools to cookie-enable your Web site. Products such as Allaire Corp.'s ColdFusion and HomeSite, as well as NetObjects Fusion, let you create your own cookies. If you designed and created your site online, you can still add cookie functionality by pasting in a few lines of JavaScript from one of the many Web-building-tool sites. Even if you built your site from scratch by handcrafting your HTML code in your favorite editor, it's just too easy to snap up the usually free cookie code to bother writing and testing your own script. At Netscape ***(help.netscape.com/kb/corporate/19960513-111.html)*** and The JavaScript Source ***(javascript.internet.com/cookies)***, you can read up on cookie recipes and pick up routines you can paste into your site.

Carefully plan the sort of information your cookies will hold, and determine if they'll have to interact with any other applications, such as databases. Cookies are small, so don't plan on cramming them with kilobytes of data.

Before you get too far into your cookie crafting, check with your ISP to ensure your site's host supports cookie use and that the cookies will function as expected. When you think you've debugged all your cookies, test them before your visitors get a taste, using a variety of browsers, browser versions, and operating systems. Don't test merely to see if the cookies do what you want them to do; keep a close watch to ensure they're not doing anything you *don't* want them to do.

NETWORKABLE

Off Site, On LAN

by Richard Santalesa

Keeping telecommuters connected is crucial to their productivity—and yours.

Which would you rather have: happy and productive employees, or ex-employees? It sounds like a no-brainer, yet every day companies choose the latter by not adequately supporting remote workers and telecommuters.

Despite the economy's cooling in the midst of the stock-market meltdown, the past five years fueled a monster run-up in housing prices across nearly every major metropolitan area—terrific for those moving to cheaper cities, but bad for everyone else. San Francisco, New York, Boston, Denver, Los Angeles, and other hot areas are replete with housing horror stories, as prices soared far faster than average tech salaries.

Real-estate sticker shock continues to push workers further from corporate centers in search of affordable housing, stretching out commutes. Allowing these far-flung workers to telecommute is a must for companies hoping to hold on to this growing segment of the workforce. Indeed, part-time remote users, dubbed the COHO market (Corporate Office, Home Office) are expected to encompass 25 percent of the U.S. workforce by 2003, according to research firm IDG.

Need more incentive? Consider this tidbit: Teleworkers generally give back half their commuting time by working longer hours, according to the Gartner Group. These commuting times average 53 minutes each day, according to the International Telework Association & Council *(www.telecommute.org)*. And companies with virtual workforces save an estimated $160 billion each year in the form of reduced absenteeism, lower recruiting costs, and improved company productivity. These are numbers you can sink your accounting ledger into.

To keep these COHO workers in contact with colleagues back at the main office, and with one another, you need to consider the remote user's Internet connection, file-sharing options, and security. In tackling these issues, keep in mind the four Ps of remote-user connectivity: performance, productivity, protection, and price.

THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS

When it comes to a remote user's connectivity, most people assume, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that broadband swing" (to mangle Duke Ellington a bit). Trouble is, your remote users may not have access to broadband connections. Indeed, more than half of U.S. households can't get cable or DSL service, according to the Kagan Broadband Report, and the situation won't improve much by 2004. By then, a third of households will still be outside broadband's reach.

So how do you connect remote users? For starters—although it verges on digital blasphemy—don't assume every remote worker needs a broadband connection. Survey your remote workers' needs beforehand by evaluating their bandwidth requirements. Is videoconferencing part of the mix? Will they be downloading multimegabyte reports on a daily basis? How are files shared among teams and offices, and on the company server? How will remote users connect if their access goes south? These are just some of the questions to keep in mind.

Even if they can get broadband access, tell your remote workers not to ditch their analog modems or second phone lines too quickly. Neither cable nor DSL is immune to technical glitches and inexplicable outages. And stay abreast of employees' relocation plans so you can be sure to check on available broadband options where they're going. At the moment, cable service is easier to get than DSL. In addition, several DSL companies recently suffered fierce financial problems (Covad is one example), so make sure you check a DSL company's health and reputation carefully before you sign a user on. When DSL is working well, however, it's an excellent dedicated connection that remains a favorite among businesses.

Although they garner the lion's share of headlines, cable and DSL aren't the only broadband games in town. In fact, two up-and-comers—wireless and satellite—are particularly well-suited to those beyond the reach of cable and DSL, and they should come on strong over the next few years.

Until recently, connecting to the Internet via satellite remained a less appealing proposition because the 400Kbps broadband portion was downstream only. For years, Hughes Network Systems' DirecPC, whose uploads require a regular modem, was the only game in town. (DirecPC costs $39.99 per month for unlimited service and an extra $10 for its ISP.)

Two-way satellite links hit the scene in November, with StarBand Communications, a joint venture of EchoStar Communications Corp. (the Dish Network people) and Gilat Satellite Networks, offering the first two-way consumer-oriented satellite Internet access. The service, which costs $69.99 per month

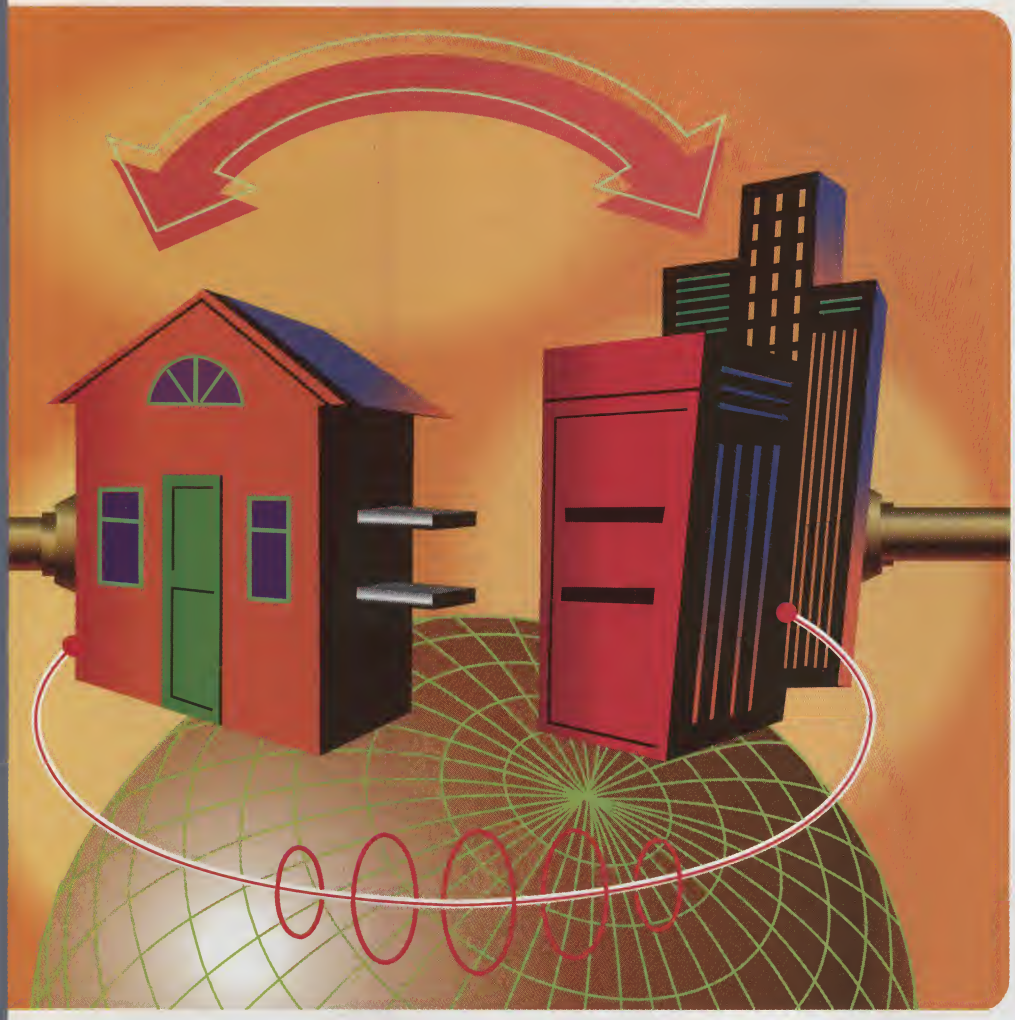


ILLUSTRATION BY BEK SHAKIROV

for unlimited usage (with special packages for Dish Network subscribers), is asymmetrical, meaning there's a disparity between upload and download speeds. Download speeds peak at 500Kbps and uploads reach 150Kbps. This is fine for Web surfing and file transfers, but a killer for real-time conferencing.

Another satellite service, Tachyon.net, delivers downstream rates ranging from 300Kbps to 2Mbps, depending on the service level you choose, and upstream speeds ranging from 64Kbps to 256Kbps. Pricing is based on usage and speed requested.

Options for wireless, or terrestrial wireless broadband (TWB), are limited at the moment, but out west, where the landscape tends to have fewer obstructions, Sprint Broadband Direct (SBD), formerly SpeedChoice ***(www.sprintbroadband.com)***, offers residential and commercial two-way connectivity. Speeds reach 5Mbps downstream and 256Kbps upstream at distances up to 35 miles from a Sprint tower. The monthly fee for unlimited consumer service is a competitive $39.95. You'll pay an additional equipment fee for the transceiver, which depends on the length of your contract, but installation is free. No matter how you slice it, SBD is a good deal.

Another wireless option, albeit slower, is Metricom's Ricochet service ***(www.ricochet.com)***. Available in a handful of metropolitan areas, Ricochet sends and receives at 128Kbps.

As a last resort, don't overlook the lowly 56Kbps modem. Devices such as Ramp Networks' $613.95 WebRamp 361i ***(www.rampnet.com)*** and Netgear's $179.95 RM356 ***(www.netgear.com)*** combine and share up to three 56Kbps modems, providing greater throughput for small offices. It's not broadband, but it can get the job done.

FILE SHARING

Outside of e-mail, the one task remote workers perform every day is moving and sharing files, be they reports, spreadsheets, or presentations. Fortunately, you'll find a multitude of file-transfer and -sharing solutions, including password-protected FTP sites, virtual private networks (VPNs), NT Remote Access Service (RAS), encrypted e-mail, Web drives, and instant-message file transfers. Most are free, so you can experiment to find the one that best suits your needs.

Don't rule out regular e-mail for transferring files as attachments, either. It's easy, it's fast, and, unless a file is large, the load isn't much of a strain on either sender or receiver. The latest version of the popular Eudora e-mail program has a peer-to-peer feature that lets Eudora users share and sync files.

So why bother with anything else? Security, for starters. E-mail attachments are hardly secure as they zip around the Internet. To address this, several companies provide secure encrypted e-mail.

One such company, ZixIt Corp., offers ZixMail, a free POP client that sends and receives encrypted and digitally signed e-mail and attachments using either your own mail servers or ZixIt's. You can even send encrypted e-mail to users without the ZixMail client. Yahoo recently announced it was adding security to its free Yahoo Mail using ZixIt technology.

HushMail and ZipLip both provide encrypted mail services, as well. HushMail is browser-based; ZipLip adds enterprise tools to layer encryption on top of Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Notes.

Finally, Tumbleweed Communications is the grand elder of secure file transfer, with firmly established technology and the patents to prove it. Tumbleweed Messaging Management System lets you define and enforce security policies and apply virus-scanning, content-control, access-control, encryption, and digital-signature policies to e-mail communications.

THE WEB AS FILE CABINET

Another great way to share files comes from various Web-drive systems, which give you anywhere from 10MB to 300MB of free storage space, more if you pony up a few bucks.

One of the best is Punch Networks, a specialist in secure file synching across the Internet. Having started out developing peer-to-peer file sharing long before the Internet and P2P became buzzwords, Punch now offers two sharing solutions: WebGroups and Instant Folders. Both are "intelligent" in that only file changes are transferred.

Instant Folders, which runs only on Windows 2000 for now, is simplicity itself. Although you can invite others to access your Instant Folder, it's designed primarily for remote workers who regularly move from computer to computer. You can try it free for 30 days, and if you like it, pay $49 per year for 50MB on the secure Instant Folders server.

Browser-based WebGroups is geared toward file sharing among team members, and includes such advanced features as file locking, checkout, and versioning. Punch

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Resources for Keeping Remote Users Connected

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- Ethentica Ethenticator *(www.ethentica.com)*
- ShieldsUp *(www.grc.com)*
- WatchGuard SOHO *(www.watchguard.com)*

offers free WebGroup accounts with up to 10MB and two folders. Beyond that, the service costs $10 per month, or $99 per year, for unlimited WebGroups with up to 100MB of data.

The list of others providing free Internet drive space is long. To name but a few, there's Driveway, FreeDrive, i-drive.com, My Docs Online, myspace, and Xdrive. (CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company, is an investor in i-drive.com and Xdrive.) Some specialize in storing MP3s; others focus on "Web clipping," which lets you save Web pages. Most include access through desktop icons or Office 2000 Webfolder integration.

These companies are also forging deals and alliances, so features are expanding rapidly. Driveway, for instance, has teamed with McAfee.com to offer MobileDisk, which integrates Driveway with McAfee's MobileOffice to provide online storage.

Driveway and My Docs Online use LapLink's tried and true SpeedSync technology to increase file-transfer rates. Remote workers with LapLink Gold or PCsync can manage their online drives and files through either application.

NOT JUST FOR BUDDIES ANYMORE

A final method for zipping files across the Internet is instant messaging. Surprised? Huge numbers of remote workers use IM apps to provide that "next cubicle" chatter that keeps them feeling like part of the team. A more concrete benefit, however, is that nearly every IM application now offers file-transfer capabilities. AOL's AIM 4.0, MSN Messenger 3.0, Yahoo Messenger 3.0, ICQ 2000b, and Lotus Sametime 2.0 all let users pop files over to any member of their buddy circles.

Remote-control programs represent a step up from IM programs. Although they're designed for tapping into a PC via modem or the Internet, many can also transfer files. Programs of this ilk include LapLink Gold, Funk Software's Proxy, Symantec Corp.'s pcAnywhere, and CrossTec Corp.'s NetOp Remote Control.

For project collaboration, count on old standbys such as Microsoft NetMeeting and Lotus Notes, and for file sharing, Lotus QuickPlace 2.0. Other programs with long track records include eRoom Technology's eRoom 5.0 and Centrinity's FirstClass. A new breed of Internet-enabled collaboration tools, some of which are free, include jack-of-all-collaboration-trades BmyPC, Notes creator Ray Ozzie's Groove, and group-project planning tool CreativeProject.

One entry that stretches across categories is fusionOne. This free program lets Microsoft Outlook users sync files, bookmarks, contacts, mail, calendars, notes, and to-dos among their PCs, Palms, and even mobile phones. On the downside, support is limited for programs other than Outlook, and its PC front end can't access networked hard drives.

SIGNING OFF WITH SECURITY

No discussion of serving remote users would be complete without touching on security. A personal firewall is mandatory for an always-on broadband connection. (For a detailed look at firewalls, see "Protect Your Personal Space," September, p. 178.) Regardless of the personal firewall solution you choose, jump over to Gibson Research *(www.grc.com)* and run the free ShieldsUp test. ShieldsUp probes a PC for weaknesses, open ports, and security holes, returning a full report of its findings.

For a firewall solution in a box, check out WatchGuard SOHO. This combination firewall and four-port Ethernet hub is actually hardware—a small red box. The unit offers stateful-inspection firewall technology, broadband Internet sharing for up to 50 users, and a live-updating service that renews its shields to block new forms of attack as they're discovered (free for a year). The unit also routes network traffic from broadband modem to network. An optional Web-usage-management tool helps ensure that Net use is in compliance with corporate use policies.

Another good solution is fingerprint-scanning technology. BioLink Technologies' U-Match Mouse is a standard two-button mouse embedded with a small fingerprint-scanning device that prevents unauthorized people from accessing a computer. The U-Match is a great way for remote users to keep their kids' hands off important data.

A variation on the fingerprint scheme has been introduced by Ethentica. Its Ethenticator USB 2500 allows fingerprint access to networks and password-protected Web sites without the need to remember or type passwords. Not only is this device more secure and convenient for the user, it also requires less support from your company's IT department. The company also offers a device for laptop users—the Ethenticator MS 3000 fits right into a laptop's PC Card slot.

With the ShieldsUp, WatchGuard SOHO, and fingerprint technology in hand, along with an understanding of the connectivity options discussed here, you have a good start on keeping remote workers happy while signing off on the four Ps of remote connectivity. ▼

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Index

Hardware

Bar Coding/Point of Sale	189-191
Flash Memory/Digital Card Readers	190
Mass Storage Devices	192
Multi Media	192
Peripherals	192
Presentation Products	192

Software

General	189

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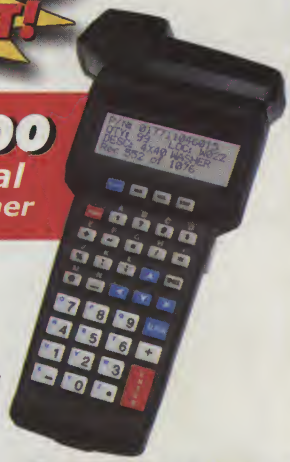
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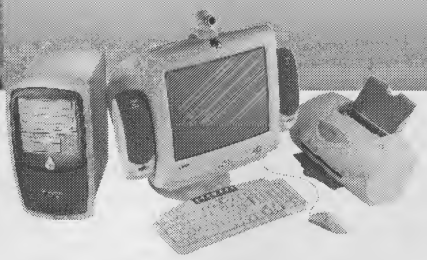
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ALICE & BILL

The Hard Edge

BY ALICE HILL AND BILL O'BRIEN

New Uses for Spam; the Pentium 4's Bogus 400MHz Bus; and Testing Your Internet Knowledge

HEY! WE HAVE A PRESIDENT. IT'S JUST HAPPENED IN "HARD EDGE" TIME, and it took five weeks to get one. Only a couple hundred votes separated the candidates, and the margin of error was greater than the margin of separation. It required one final vote—from 211 lawyers and 16 judges—to determine what should have been decided by an election. (Oh, and some guy named Chad was involved who either may have had a dimple or may have been pregnant, according to the news reports.) Next time, etc., etc....

PENTIUM 4 QUAD PUMPING

Some issues have turned up about the Pentium 4's 400MHz system bus. It's not. It's a 100MHz bus. Intel uses something called "quad pumping" to multiply its actual data-access period, and that's how the 400MHz marketing line got into popular usage.

Don't believe it? From page 4 of Intel's NetBurst white paper: "**400-MHz System Bus:** Through a physical signaling scheme of quad pumping the data transfers over a 100-MHz clocked system bus and a buffering scheme allowing for sustained 400-MHz data transfers, the Pentium 4 processor supports Intel's highest performance desktop system bus delivering 3.2GB of data per second in and out of the processor. This compares to 1.06GB/s delivered on the Pentium III processor's 133-MHz system bus."

The clock is 100MHz. The scheme is 400MHz. Would this be a risky scheme?

IT ISN'T VERY PC

By the way, PC2100 DDR SDRAM isn't 2100MHz. It isn't really 266MHz either, although, to be fair, PC800 RDRAM isn't 800MHz. If you see PC2100 DDR SDRAM, you're looking at double-data-rate memory that's been certified for a system with a 133MHz bus (in the same manner that PC800 RDRAM is certified for a 400MHz bus, and it's already been put into evidence that the Pentium 4 doesn't have a 400MHz bus). There's also PC1600 DDR SDRAM, and its certification is for 100MHz system buses (coincidentally what the Pentium 4 uses). If you want to know how PC2100 and PC1600 got their names, you'll need to flip back in this issue to the "Thanks for the Memory" sidebar Bill wrote. (See the Features section. And if there's a linking person lurking somewhere out there on the Internet version of "The Hard Edge," maybe you'll even be able to click directly to it.)



ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COOK

DDR SDRAM

By now you've probably gotten a chance to look over the Athlon/DDR SDRAM computers. Do they kick Pentium 4 bits? Before all you Athlon fans out there who've been writing to Bill about how biased he is against AMD start renewing your claims, consider this: Yes, this current combination is incredibly fast—so much so that a 1.2GHz Athlon is performance-competitive with a 1.5GHz Pentium 4 costing $1,000 more. But this situation is a lot like adding a supercharger to your car. Yes, the zero-to-60 times will drop like a stone. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen because the engine is any better. It's a result of adding the supercharger.

So although Bill is willing to give this combination of technologies (either one, actually, but here specifically the AMD and DDR SDRAM) a vigorous round of applause, it's not, in any way, proof that the Athlon is a superior CPU to the Pentium 4. In fact, it's not. (Here come the letters.) The Pentium 4 is currently underutilized by software. When issues with SSE2 are resolved (and there's some suggestion they will be with DirectX 8.0, at least to a certain degree), when software addresses the Pentium 4's 20-stage pipeline issues, and if the Pentium 4 mates with DDR SDRAM (this could happen very soon, if not already), we'll see a real comparison between the two. Of course, it will be an unfair comparison as far as the Athlon is concerned, just as it was unfair comparing non-Coppermine Pentium IIIs with Athlons, and classic Athlons (with external L2 cache) with Coppermine Pentium IIIs.

The truth is (and Bill is braced for hate mail from both camps) you can't make a definitive comparison among dissimilar items. At best, all you really can do is make a running comparison about which version of which product is superior at the moment in the environment in which it exists, not by its nature.

It also doesn't dismiss Bill's complaint that AMD has yet to innovate a CPU. It hasn't. AMD has the potential to do so. It just hasn't taken advantage of that potential. On the other hand, Bill will be the first to agree that still having $1,000 in the bank after buying an Athlon/DDR system is a great feeling; it gives him a lot of potential to buy other stuff.

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU SPAM

Alice gets more spam than a World War II GI, so she was especially pleased to find an innovative and downright delightful technical solution that embraces spam and combines it with the technology every geek loves—encryption. It's the digital equivalent of a machine that cranks out a perfect fireplace Yule log out of old newspapers and magazines.

Here's how it works. You go to spammimic ***(www.spammimic.com)*** and select Encode from the main menu. The Encode

page has a small text box in which you can enter a short message. For instance, Alice entered, "Bill is a hopeless shut-in. Can somebody please help?"

Hit the Encode key, and spammimic generates a short spam message with your text woven somewhere in the depths of the message. Here is an excerpt from the secret spam with Alice's message hidden inside:

"Dear Friend,

We know you are interested in receiving red-hot news! If you no longer wish to receive our publications, simply reply with a Subject: of 'REMOVE' and you will immediately be removed from our club! This mail is being sent in compliance with Senate bill 2516; Title 5; Section 303. Do NOT confuse us with Internet scam artists! Why work for somebody else when you can become rich within 25 weeks...."

To securely transmit your encoded message, simply cut it from the generated text box and paste it into your e-mail. Send it off, and the person on the other end pastes the spam portion of your message into the Decode box on spammimic and hits the Decode button. The message is instantly translated back to your original sentence.

The beauty of this is it easily eludes corporate snoopers, and it doesn't make you send passwords and other encryption nonsense that always leave you feeling like a 13-year-old paranoiac. For those who just want a little extra privacy now and then, spammimic is fun. Alice gives it a Mondo Cool nod for doing the unthinkable—getting people to love and enjoy spam. "Nice job" to creator Peter Wayner!

MOUSE PRINTS

After nearly nine years, Alice knows Bill fairly well. So the last thing Alice expected when she saw a small box with a label that read, "ATTENTION: You must first install the software before plugging in your mouse. Failure to do so could result in damage to your computer," was that the gun port, er, mail slot, in the brass-bound oaken doors of the Lab of Doom & Pepsi-Cola would open and the box would be whooshed inside.

Little did she know, inside the box, on page 1 of the two-page installation guide, was a suggestion that you back up your PC before installing the product. And further on, in the liner notes of the installation CD, it suggests you have your operating system software on hand.

This wasn't just any box. Someone from Siemens had contacted Bill about it. (How the individual knew where to reach him is still a mystery. Bill speculates there's some tie-in with the Siemens 2.4GHz cordless phone system he purchased, but he isn't ready to give in fully to paranoia just yet.) In the box is what Siemens calls an "ID Mouse." It's a USB wheel mouse with a photocell located on top, just behind the wheel. The device uses a person's fingerprint to grant or deny access to the computer on which it's installed.

This is not a new idea. This whole fingerprint thing has been around for a while now. Siemens has done it for $129 direct—more than the cost of your average mouse, but not nearly what some of these security systems cost. The ID Mouse isn't nearly as frightening to install as the succession of warnings and suggestions make it out to be. It also appears to work, although Bill would have appreciated some hard (read: paper) documentation to review before diving into the software installation. You can even register multiple users, if you like. (Network administrators will love the amount of power it gives them.) Better still, it's darn near innocuous after you've been recognized as a valid user. The ID Mouse is also cute. That's not a reason to consider it, but cute is enough of an oddity in the LofD&PC to be noteworthy.

The ID mouse uses your fingerprint to grant or deny access to a PC.

READY TO PLAY DOT COM SURVIVOR?

What's your IQ? Alice and Bill don't mean intelligence quotient—it's Internet quotient that matters to them. Alice found a cool little multiplayer trivia game called "Dot Com Survivor" that she quickly obsessed over. The game is the creation of a site called Gamelet.com, which specializes in multiplayer Flash-based games you can play right from your browser.

To start a game, pick an Internet luminary you want to be. (Alice chose eBay's Meg Whitman.) You enter the game as an avatar bearing the mug of your chosen Internet hero (or villain, depending on who you pick) and pilot your personality to bouncing question marks on the board. When you hit a question mark, you'll get a question that, if you answer correctly, moves you up in rank and clears the question mark.

ALICE & BILL

In multiplayer mode, users race around the board trying to beat their opponents to as many question marks as they can.

The best part is you can jump into another player's square and issue a live trivia challenge. The game waits for each side to answer and continues firing out questions until someone loses. The winner gets 1,000 points; the loser blows off the board and loses valuable time getting to available question marks.

The only downside is the game is a marketing front, so every now and then it tosses in an annoying question about some conference or some other sponsor's product. You also have to provide your e-mail address to play, but Alice threw in a fake address and still got clearance. (Sorry, Gamelet!) If you don't mind an occasional marketing question, this game is hours of fun.

Here's a preview of some of the questions to get you started:

How many bytes are in a megabyte?
(1,048,576)

Who said, "We're a cult in some ways, but we're a customer cult so that's not so bad"?
(Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com)

Who is the father of VRML?
(Mark Pesce)

What does MIME stand for?
(Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions)

You can check out Dot Com Survivor at ***gtime.gamelet.com/survivor.***

SEND ALICE AND BILL SOME SPAM!

For one time only, Alice and Bill will welcome a spam message, providing you encode something meaningful with spammimic. When was the last time you heard someone ask for spam? So drop them a secret message today.

Send your spam to ***alice@alicehill.com,*** but make sure you say "Secret Spam Message" in the subject line to alert Alice and Bill to your encryption. Otherwise, your message will hit the trash can as fast as any other junk mail, and that would be a sad thing, indeed.

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12GB	24GB	120MB/min	HP DDS-3 C1554AI	$699
20GB	40GB	288MB/min	Sony DDS-4 SDT11000AI	$839
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72GB	144GB	120MB/min	HP C5648A 6 tape loader	$1659
160GB	320GB	840MB/min	Sony TSL-S11000 tape loader	$2755
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Media 1-4/5-9/10+			*125 Meter (DAT125M)*	*$20/$19/$18*
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ULTRA ATA HARD DRIVES

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20.4GB	512K	5400	ST320413A	$119
30.0GB	512K	5400	ST330621A	$131
40.8GB	512K	5400	ST340823A	$151

IBM

15.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5637	$111
20.OGB	2MB	7200	07N5638	$131
30.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5639	$149
45.0GB	2MB	7200	07N5640	$178
60.0GB	2MB	7200	07N3933	$307
75.0GB	2MB	7200	07N3935	$419

Quantum

10.0GB	128K	4500	QML10000LD	$99
10.2GB	2MB	7200	QMP10200AS	$109
20.0GB	128K	4500	QML20000LD	$113
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500AS	$124
30.0GB	128K	4500	QML30000LD	$119
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000AS	$143
40.0GB	128K	4500	QML40000LD	$143
40.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP40000AS	$184
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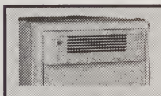
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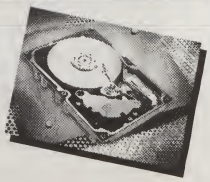
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10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4390	$137
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4388	$223
32.0GB	12.5mm	5400	07N4138	$489
HITACHI				
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA60	$116
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20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23BA20	$214

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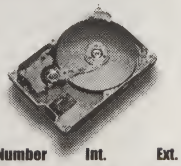
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18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LW	$Call	$Call
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36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LWV	$595	$725
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36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700LW	$559	$689
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IBM

Ultra 160 SCSI

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
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18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LCV	$323
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LC	$579
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9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100SCA	$179
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200SCA	$194
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400SCA	$295
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400SCA	$319
36.7GB	4MB	7200	XC336700SCA	$519
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700SCA	$559
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400SCA	$1119

FIBRE 160 HARD DRIVES

Seagate

18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318304FC	$419
36.7GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST336704FC	$589
73.4GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST173404FC	$1069

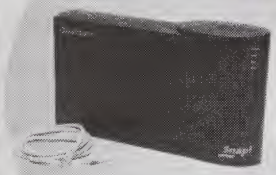
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PERFORMANCE AND RELIABILITY

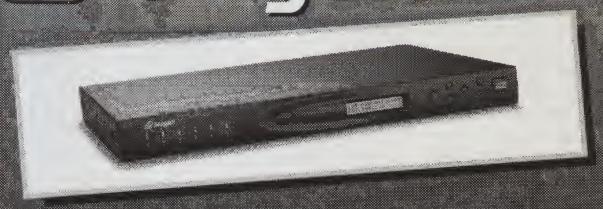
Quantum Snap! Servers



Bring up a Quantum file server and have it on line in minutes.

15GB Single Drive (5325301103)	**$519**
30GB Single Drive (5325301105)	**$749**
60GB Two Drive (5325301101)	**$1499**
120GB Four Drive (5325301085)	**$2499**

Seagate



Seagate NASRaQ Network Storage at it's finest and easiest!

Fast, easy installation and administration - a person without training can install a NASRaQ in 15 minutes or less.

60GB $1429

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MOTHERBOARDS

Slot 1

OR840 133MHz Bus, AGP 4-PCI 2-USB, RDRAM w/Audio & Lan (BOXOR840GRD) $679

Socket 370

D815EEA 133/100/66MHz Bus, 5-PCI, 4-USB, SDRAM w/Audio, Video & Lan (BOXD815EEA) $149

CA810E mATX 133/100/66MHz Bus, 4-PCI, w/Audio, Video & Lan (BOXCA810EAL) $165

CA810E mATX 133/100/66 MHz Bus, 4-PCI, w/Audio & Video (BOXCA810EA) $139

D810EMO 133/100/66 MHz Bus, 1-PCI, 4-USB, w/Audio, Video & Lan (BOX810EMO) $155

POWER BACKUP

Back-UPS		**Symmetra RM 208V**		SU700RM2U	$439
BK300	$89	SYH2K6RMT	$2419	SU1000RM2U	$555
BK500M	$129	SYH4K6RMT	$2569	SU1400RM2U	$719
BK650M	$175	SYH6K6RMT	$5379	SU1400RMXLNET	$1019
Back-UPS Office		**Smart-UPS 120V**		SU2200RM3U	$1179
BF280C	$85	SU420NET	$219	SU2200RMXLNET	$1439
BF350	$79	SU620NET	$289	SU3000RM3U	$1319
BF500	$99	SU700NET	$345	SU3000RMNET	$1419
Back-UPS Pro 120V		SU700XLNET	$499	**Smart-UPS RM 208V**	
BP280S	$129	SU1000NET	$499	SU3000RMT3U	$1809
BP420S	$199	SU1400NET	$649	SU5000RMT5U	$2479
BP650S	$269	SU2200NET	$929	**Smart-UPS RM 120, 208V**	
BP1000	$375	SU2200XLNET	$1219	SU5000RMT5UXFMR	$2899
BP1400	$479	SU3000NET	$1729	**Symmetra RM 120, 208V**	
Back-UPS Pro 230V		**Smart-UPS 208V**		SYH2K6RMT-P1	$2665
BP420SI	$199	SU2200XLTNET	$1469	SYH4K6RMT-P1	$4239
Back-UPS Pro USB		SU3000TNET	$1879	SYH6K6RMT-P1	$5829
BP350UC	$145	**Smart-UPS RM 120V**			
BP500CLR	$165	PS250	$219		
BP500U	$125	PS450	$295		

Call us for a custom configuration!

NETWORKING & NETWORKING APPLIANCES

This is just a sampling of the products we have in stock. Visit our webstore for complete listings.

NETWORK PC CARDS – CardBus

16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T,2 RJ-45, BNC card (3CCE589EC) $189

16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, RJ-45 (3CCE589ET) $139

16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, RJ-45 (3CCSH572BT) $95

16 or 32 bit, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, RJ-45, XJACK (3CCFE574BT) $139

32 bit, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, RJ-45 (3CCFE575CT) $159

FIREWALLS

3Com OfficeConnect Internet

Two 10BASE-T RJ-45 ports $589

Three 10BASE-T RJ-45 ports $124

HUBS By 3Com

Office Connect & SuperStack II

12 10/100BASE-TX w RJ-45 ports (3C16405) $495

24 auto sensing 10/100BASE-TX, RJ-45 ports (3C16406) $875

12 Twisted Pair RJ-45 ports (3C16440) $149

24 Ethernet ports & 1 FE port (3C16450) $929

12 auto sensing 10/100 Ethernet, RJ-45 ports (3C16592A) $309

24 auto sensing 10/100 Ethernet ports (3C16611) $899

6 Ethernet 10BASE-T-FL, Fibre ports (3C16665A) $1459

12 Ethernet RJ-45, 10BASE-T ports (3C16670A) $529

24 10BASE-T Ethernet, RJ-45 ports (3C16671A) $929

SWITCHES By 3Com

Office Connect & SuperStack II

12 auto sensing 10/100 BASE-TX, FE ports (3C16464A) $435

4 10/100BASE-TX, RJ-45 ports w/MDI/MDIX-#8 (3C16733A) $99

8 10/100BASE-TX, RJ-45 ports w/MDI/MDIX-#8 (3C16734B-US) $145

24 10BASE-T UTP, 2 10/100 TX ports (3C16950) $919

12 10BASE-T UTP E & 2 10/100BASE-TX FE ports (3C16951) $639

24 10/100BASE-TX FE ports, exp slot (3C16980) $1739

Don't see the Switch you want? CALL.

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ATTENTION NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS!

We are the place you want to call.
We carry everything you'll need to build a LAN or WAN for business or home. Call our highly trained sales staff with your needs. We are determined to be #1 in the US in computer network equipment, so log on to our secure web site at www.megahaus.com.
Call us, you'll be glad you met us.

NETWORK INTERFACE CARDS

This is just a small sampling of the cards we carry. Ask us if we carry the card you're looking for or check out our webstore under the "Networking" listing.

Ethernet NIC

10 ISA TPO Network	(3C509B-TPO)	$65
10/100 ISA Network	(3C515-TX)	$159
10 ISA Combo Network	(3C509B-CMB)	$125
10 ISA TPC Network	(3C509B-TPC)	$75
10/100 PCI Network	(3C905B-TXNM)	$79
10 Fiber Network	(3C900B-FLST)	$169
100 PCI Fiber Network	(3C905B-FXSC)	$255
10 PCI TPO Network	(3C900B-TPO)	$59
10 PCI Combo Network	(3C900BCOMBO)	$139
10/100 PCI Combo Network	(3C905BCOMBO)	$139
10/100 PCI Network	*(3C980C-TXM)*	*$99*

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IDE CD REWRITABLES



Acer 10x4X32 IDE
Int. (CRW1032A) $159
8MB buffer, with software & 1 RW disk

Hewlett Packard 10x4x32 IDE Int. (C4492A) $219
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Sony 12x8x32 IDE Int. (CRX160EA1) $195
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Hewlett Packard 12x8x32 IDE Int. (C4502A) $289
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Creative 12x10X32 IDE Int. (CDRW121032) $279
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Plextor 12x10x32 IDE Int. (PXW121032R) $229
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Teac 12x10x32 IDE Int. (CDW512E/KIT) $239
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Ricoh 12x10x32 IDE Int. (MP7120A) $269
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Yamaha 16x10x40 IDE Int. (YCRW2100E) $229
Bare drive

SCSI CD REWRITABLES



Sony 10x4x32 SCSI
Int. (CRX145S) $279
Ext. (CRX145SX) $339

Plextor 12x4x32 SCSI
Int. (PXW12432B) $279 Ext. (PXW12432BX) $339

Hewlett Packard 12x8x32 SCSI
Int. (C4506A) $295 with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Plextor 12x10x32 SCSI
Int. (PXW1210TSB) $279 Ext. (PXW1210TSBX) $339

Yamaha16x10x40 SCSI
Int. (YCRW2100S) $279 Ext. (YCRW2100SX) $339

1394 & USB CDR-WS

Teac 4x4x6 USB [CDW54EUSB] $249
Sony 4x4x6 USB [CRX100E/X2] $279
Sony 10x4x32 1394 [CRX145E/X1] $345

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New Click & Burn Premium CD Recording Software from CD Stomper.
For Win 95/98/NT 4.0 (CLICKNBURN) ***$55***

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Complete CD labeling system. Includes Software with over 1200 predesigned backgrounds & clip art, 50 labels, label applicator, and 20 sets of jewel case inserts. Easy to use. With the included stand-alone software, making professional-looking labels is easy. CD Stomper Pro software works with Win 3.1, 95, NT, & Mac. Alone/With CDR drive purchase $25/$19

• CD MASTERING SOFTWARE •

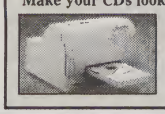
Adaptec Easy-CD Creator $30 *w/drive purchase* Retail $89
Super easy to use. Supports Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 3.51, & 4.x. Bundle version now supports Macintosh operating system. Win & Mac.

Apple Toast CD-ROM Pro Retail $79
The #1 mastering software for Macintosh. Supports Mac OS7 and later on Macintosh or compatible.

Creative Digital Research HyCD for UNIX Retail version $1499
HyCD Publisher works on SunOS, Solaris, and IRIX. It is used to develop Hybrid CD-ROMs integrating PC (ISO 9660 & Joliet), Macintosh (HFS), and UNIX (Rock Ridge) formats on a single CD-ROM. Note: Bundle versions may only be sold with a CD-R or CD-RW drive.

Professional CD Printer

Make your CDs look more professional with the Signature color CD printer. Prints on CD printable media. Compatible with Win 3.1, 95 NT, and MacOS.

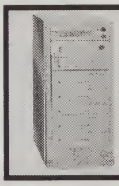


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CD DUPLICATOR



• Fast 4X duplication speed, built in CD reader. LCD panel w/controls. • Built in hard drive allows you to save often used disk images. • Duplicate almost any type of disk. If the CD-ROM can read it, you can duplicate it. • Operating system independent. • Connect to PC or Mac to produce master CD's • Direct write from CD-ROM to CD-R • Copy source from CD to HDD once, then make 1-99 duplicates on the CD-R • Create custom audio CD's from multiple audio CD titles. CDEZDUPE $895



Hot new CD Duplicator from MegaHaus

• 1 Plextor 40x CD-ROM Drive
• 5 Plextor 12x10x32 CD-RW Drives

(MHCDDUPE5) **$2395**

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Unbeatable Prices!

CD RECORDABLE MEDIA

CDR-74 in jewel case

16x Budget 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74B-5/20/50/100) $5/$18/$42/$78

16x Standard 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74-5/20/50/100) $6/$24/$56/$105

16x Platinum 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74PA-5/20/50/100) $6/$24/$57/$106

Printable CDR-74 in jewel case

16x Budget 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74PB-5/20/50/100) $4/$15/$35/$66

16x Standard 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74P-5/20/50/100) $7/$26/$62/$115

CDR-80 80 minute media

16x Budget 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR80-5/20/50/100) $4/$13/$32/$59

CD REWRITABLE MEDIA

CDR-74W in jewel case

4x Budget 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74WB-5/20/50/100) $6/$24/$56/$104

4x Standard 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74W-5/20/50/100) $12/$45/$107/$199

10x *NEW!* Standard 5/20/50/100 pack:
(CDR74HS-5/20/50/100) $17/$64/$150/$280

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Lowest Cost-Per-MegaByte RAID!
Mission Critical RAID 0 and 5 with very affordable IDE drives. 500GB capacity configured for RAID 5 boasts benchmarked data transfer rates in excess of 35MB per second.
RAID5 500GB capacity only $6999

• SCSI RAID-Ready Towers•

We carry a wide selection of RAID Ready multidrive towers with hard drives in DataPort™ removable systems. See our selection at www.megahaus.com/raid. Here's just a few of our best sellers.

Total Cap	#Drives	Each Drive/Speed	Item No.	Price
45GB	5	9GB/7200rpm	ARR45-7EX	$2189
72GB	4	18B/10,000rpm	ARR72-10EX	$2029
90GB	5	18GB/7200rpm	ARR90-7EX	$2689
144GB	4	36GB/10,000rpm	ARR144-10EX	$3039
200GB	4	50GB/7200rpm	ARR200-7EX	$4599
300GB	6	50GB/7200rpm	ARR300-7EX6	$6995

• SCSI RAID-READY Drive Enclosures w/DataPorts •

#DataPorts	Interface	Item No.	Price
2	Ultra2 SCSI	FHCASEUSW	$559
4	UltraWide SCSI	DUALCASEUSW	$659
8	Ultra2 SCSI	QUADCASE8U2	$1179

Check out our entire lineup at **www.megahaus.com/raid.**

CD ROM READERS

• SCSI DRIVES •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	External
Teac	CD532S	32X	85ms	$72	$132
NEC	CDR3010	40X	85ms	$69	$129
Plextor	PX40TS(tray)	40X	85ms	$89	$149
Kenwood	UCR415	52X	90ms	$139	$199

• WIDE SCSI DRIVES •

Plextor	PX40TSUW	40X	85ms	$99	$189

• ATAPI DRIVES (IDE) •

Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	Int Kit
Teac	CD540E	40X	85ms	$43	$73
Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	48X	65ms	$39	$69
Toshiba	XM6702B	48X	85ms	$47	$77
Acer	CD650P	50X	85ms	$41	$71
Creative	SBCD52	52X	100ms	$40	$70
Kenwood	UCR421	72X	100ms	$95	$125

IDE CD Rom Case for parallel printer port [PCMCIACD] $59
HotPort External IDE CD case w/cable & card [HOTPORT] $129
Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live MP3+5.1 [SB0060003002] $95
CD Driver Software for Mac [RAPIDPD] $8

Listen to your favorite CD on your computer while you work with affordable Labtec earphones, headsets & speakers starting at just $5! CALL.

DVD DRIVES

Pioneer leads the way with these hot DVD deals!

PIONEER

Bare	Interface	CD Speed	DVD Speed	Part #	Price
Pioneer	IDE (slot)	40X/80ms	16X,110ms	DVD105	$109
Pioneer	IDE (tray)	40X/80ms	16X, 110ms	DVD115	$112
Pioneer	SCSI	40X/90ms	10X,120ms	DVD304	$142

Record your own DVD movies!

DVD Recorder, DVD-R write 1x, DVD-R read 2x, 4MB buffer, includes software and 3 DVD disks #DRS201 $3995
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TOSHIBA *Precision and Excellence*

Bare	Interface	CD Speed	DVD Speed	Part #	Price
Toshiba	IDE	48X/95ms	16X, 115ms	SDM1502	$115

Complete DVD Kits

MegaHaus 16X Drive kit [DVD16KIT] $175
Creative Encore 12X DVD Drive kit [CLDVD12KIT] $149
Hollywood MPEG-2 Decoder [HOLLYWOOD] $55
Waveless wireless transmitter allows you to transmit DVD movies from computer to TV [PCTOTV] $99 or $95 w/DVD drive.

CD MULTIDRIVE TOWERS

• CD ROM TOWERS •

For fast access to multiple CD's at one time.
Perfect for schools, networks, and more. Toll free support.
Ask about our 52X models!



4 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS
(Ask about our UltraWides)

40X	85ms	Plextor	$429
40X	85ms	NEC	$359



7 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS
(We also carry Teac & Kenwood brands)

40X	85ms	Plextor	$759
40X	85ms	NEC	$619

Ethernet CD Towers - Built-in 10 baseT or 100 baseT Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Windows 95, NT, OS/2, DOS, and UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks, and NFS. Prices shown for 10base T, 10/100 also available. *CALL.*

Speed	Brand	7 Drive	Item #	13 Drive	Item #
40X	Plextor	$1259	#PLEX40X7N	$2069	#PLEX40X13T
40X	NEC	$1109	#NEC3010X7N	$1799	#NEC3010X13T
52X	Kenwood	$1599	#KEN415X7N	$2739	#KEN415X13T

Many, many more configurations available. Call for a quote. Let us build one for you!

New! Auto Switching Ethernet CD Towers

Auto switches between 10 baseT or 100 base T Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, Win for Workgroups, OS/2, HTTP, Mac, and UNIX. Pre-assembled.
40x drive speed, 8 drive tower. (MIT40X8N) $1189
48x drive speed, 8 drive tower. (MIT48X8N) $1219

Sales Hours (CST):
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ZIP & JAZ MEDIA

IOMEGA 100MB ZIP

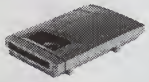
Int. IDE [ZIP250A] / 5 Pack [ZIP100A-5]	$149/$279
Int. SCSI [ZIP100I]	$89
Parallel Ext. [PPZIP100]	$99
Ext. USB [ZIP100USB]	$99
Zip media [ZIP100C] 2-9/10+	$12/10

IOMEGA 250MB ZIP



Int. IDE [ZIP250A]	$149
Ext. for PC Parallel Port [PPZIP250]	$149
Ext. USB for PC or Mac [ZIP250USB]	$165
Ext. SCSI for PC or Mac [ZIP250]	$149

IOMEGA 2GB JAZ



Internal SCSI [JAZ2I]	$299
External SCSI [JAZ2X]	$339
Jaz 1 GB media [JAZ1GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	$80/77/75
Jaz 2 GB media [JAZ2GIGPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	$85/80/77

OPTICAL DRIVES

• SONY 5.2GB•

Compatible with 5¼" 650MB, 1.3GB, & 2.6GB disks.

SCSI Drive Int. [SMOF551] / Ext. [SMOF551X]	$1399/1459
5.2GB media (SMAX5.2) 1-4/5-9/10+	$83/80/77

DIGITAL CAMERAS



Brand/Model	Resolution	Zoom	Part #/Price
Epson PhotoPC 750Z	1600x1200	6X	(B080011F) $469
Sony Mavica	640x480	10X	(MVCFD73) $495
Sony Mavica	1280x960	8X/16X	(MVCFD88) $879
Epson PhotoPC 800	1984x488	2X	(B105011F) $469
Epson PhotoPC 850Z	1984x1488	3X	(B111021F) $745
Epson PhotoPC 3000Z	2544x1904	3X/6X	(B123011F) $919
HP PhotoSmart C500xi	1600x1200	3X/6X	(C6746A) $499
Sony Mavica	1280x960	3X/6X	(MVCFD85) $695
Sony Mavica	1472x1104	8X/16X	(MVCFD90) $795

Cameras listed above feature liquid crystal displays.

MULTIMEDIA

Brand/Model	Part #	Price
GRAPHICS CARDS		
Diamond Viper II AGP w/S3 Savage2000	90230302	$95
ATI All-In-Wonder 128 PCI w/32MB SDRAM	100-708036	$195
3dfx Voodoo5 5500 AGP w/64MB SDRAM	V555464	$199
3dfx Voodoo3 3500 TV AGP	V3T416	$179
3dfx Voodoo3 3000 AGP w/16MB SDRAM	V33416	$99
ATI RAGE FURY 128 AGP w/32MB SDRAM	100-416045	$105
3dfx Voodoo3 3000 PCI w/16MB SDRAM	V33316	$99
IMAGE CAPTURE DEVICES		
Sony Handycam Media Converter	DVMCDA2	$349
Sony Digital MaviCap Recorder	MVC-FDR1	$319
Sony Digital MaviCap Recorder w/LCD Monitor	MVC-FDR3	$539
VIDEO EDITING		
Create your own in-house video editing studio!		
Studio DC10plus Motion-JPEG Video Capture Kit	160300010R	$89
MicroVIDEO DV500 Digital Video Editing Kit	16535001N	$869
MicroVIDEO DC50 Digital Video Editing Kit	510001	$1259
MicroVIDEO DC30pro Dig. Video Editing Soft.Kit	330001	$519
MicroMOTION DC30 + Video/Audio Editing for Mac	331001	$795

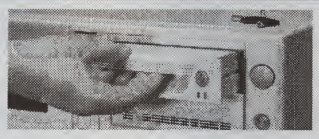
SOUND ACCESSORIES



Earphone - Home stereo & comfort	(LT830)	$21
Earphone - Portable audio & home stereo use	(LT820)	$13
Headset/Microphone - Internet & multimedia	(C322)	$20
Headset/Microphone - Speech recognition	(LVA8450)	$39
Hand Microphone - Optimal voice clarity	(AM222)	$13
PC Microphone - Features wide base stand	(AM240)	$12
Computer Speakers - Quality sound	(LCS1060)	$29
Computer Speakers - Crystal-clear sound	(LCS1070)	$35
Computer Speakers - Dynamic, realistic sound	(LCS2422)	$65
Computer Speakers - Hi-Performance 3D audio	(APX4620)	$129
Computer/Console Speakers - Nonstop gaming	(LCS2417)	$39

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MAKE IT REMOVABLE



It's 2AM - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FILES ARE?

Your data is valuable to you. Keep it safe by keeping it with you. Key on your drive when you start in the morning, key off & take it home with you at night. This is the best data security measure on the market.

DATA-PORT V Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers. New IDE 66 is backward compatible with ATA-33 drives.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 with plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	$79	n/a
IDE 66 with metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	$87	$96
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	$105	$114
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	n/a
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$50	$60
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCART)	$61	$71
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$44	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	$51	

DATA-PORT VI Removable Drive Brackets

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Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	$108	$117
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UWM)	$128	$137
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	$139	$149
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	$61	$71
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	$75	$85
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	$88	$98
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Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAMEL)	$54	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$61	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	$63	
ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI		
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Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	$429
Netware single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	$409
Netware multi server (SBENWME)	$829
NovaStor	
NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	$49
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Server (29801)	$115
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Workstation (29821)	$55
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SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	$395
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GoBack Disaster Recovery Software	**$59**

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USB to SCSI Adapter — USB to SCSI adapter by Adaptec. Allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port. Supports up to 7 SCSI devices. (USBSCSI) $65

SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy — Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks. (USBLS120) $149

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15"	1024x768, TFT Active Matrix		VG150	$799
18.1"	1600x1200, LCD		VP181	$2559
20"	Professional Series		PF815	$945
20"	Nokia Series CRT		445ZA	$879
20"	Optiquest Series		Q110	$669
19.6"	Nokia Series FD Trinitron CRT		445PRO	$1059
20"	Professional Series Xtreme		P817	$1789

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Color 860	C303001	$135
Color 980	C380001	$259
Color 980N (Network)	C380111	$459
Photo 870	C304101	$259
Photo 875D	C364011	$319
Photo 1270	C296011	$499
Pro 5000	C228011B	$2579
Pro 5000 Fiery LX RIP	C228011S	$6759
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- Intel® Pentium® III Xeon™ Processor 1GHz
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- 2x18GB SCSI HD
- Two hot-swap HD bays supports ten 1" (or six 1.6") HD
- Integrated two Ultra160 SCSI,
  one Ultra Narrow channel/Ultra Wide channel
- Integrated Intel® Pro/100+ Fast Ethernet Controller
- Integrated graphics with 2MB SGRAM
- Eight total available PCI slots (two 64 bit/66MHz,
  four 64 bit/33MHz & two 32 bit/33MHz hot-swap)
- 1.44MB floppy drive with three 5.25" peripheral drive bays
- Three (2+1 redundant) 375-watt hot swap power supply
- Six (3+3 redundant) electronics bay fans
- Intel® Server Control Software and Management hardware
- Supports most popular OS

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Server ISP4400

$5,299.00

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- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1GHz
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- 30GB EIDE hard disk drive
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- Integrated two Ultra160 SCSI,
  one Ultra Narrow Channel/Ultra Wide channel
- Integrated Intel® Pro/100+ Fast Ethernet Controller
- Integrated graphics with 2MB SGRAM
- 1.44MB floppy drive with optional slimeline CD ROM Drive
- Hot-swap HD bay supports five 1" (or three 1.6") HD
- Three (2+1 redundant) 350-watt hot swap power supply
- Six (5+1 redundant) electronics bay fans
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18GB	SCSI	7200rpm	Quantum QM318300XCLW	$310

IDE HARD DRIVES

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20.5GB	7200rpm	QMP20000AS	$128
30GB	4500rpm	QML30000LD	$127
30GB	7200rpm	QMP30000AS	$140
40GB	4500rpm	QML40000LD	$142
40GB	7200rpm	QMP40000AS	$166
60GB	7200rpm	QMP60000AS	$252
SEAGATE			
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20GB	5400rpm	ST320413A	$114
30GB	5400rpm	ST330621A	$129
30.6GB	7200rpm	ST330630A	$147
40GB	5400rpm	ST340823A	$147
MAXTOR			
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30.7GB	5400rpm	33073H	$133
30.7GB	7200rpm	53073H	$156
40GB	7200rpm	5TO40H	$188
46GB	5400rpm	94610H	$160
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IBM			
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20GB	7200rpm	07N5638	$135
30GB	5400rpm	07N3925	$132
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Parallel $84 USB $84 Fire Wire $144

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18.4GB	10,000rpm	QM318400TYLW	8mb	$338
36.7GB	7,200rpm	QM336700XCLW	4mb	$515
36.7GB	10,000rpm	QM336700TYLW	8mb	$560
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IBM				
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9.1GB	10,000rpm	07N3220	4mb	$230
18.2GB	7200rpm	07N3110	4mb	$330
18.3GB	10,000rpm	07N3210	4mb	$345
36.4GB	7200rpm	07N3100	4mb	$557
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9.2GB	7200rpm	ST39236LCV	4mb	$225
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18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318436LW	2mb	$319
18.4GB	7200rpm	ST318436LCV	4mb	$320
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CD ReWritable			Beige	Black
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8x4x32	IDE	Lite-On	$132	$182
8x4x32	IDE	Iomega 31025	$169	$219
8x8x32	IDE	Pacific Digital U-30102	$139	$189
10x4x32	IDE	HP SureStore 9340I	$220	$270
12x8x32	IDE	Acer CDRW1208A	$184	$234
12x8x32	IDE	Sony CRX160E/AI	$199	$249
12x8x32	IDE	HP SureStore 9500I	$265	$315
12x10x32	IDE	Lite-On LITE1210	$175	$225
12x10x32	IDE	Ricoh MP7120A	$199	$249
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8x8x24	SCSI	Yamaha CRW8824SZ	$220	$270
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Amacom	PCMCIA	5X DVD / 24X BABYDVD	$289

CD ROM				Beige	Black
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48X	IDE	US Drives	CD48X	$38	$63
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52X	IDE	LiteOn	LTN525	$39	$64
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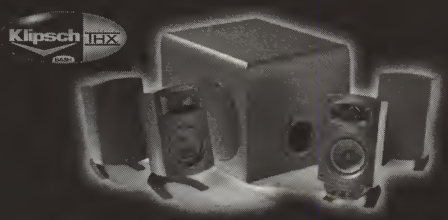
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ACS54, 5 Piece, for gamers, 40 Watts	$65
ATP3, 3 Piece, Thin Profile, 30 Watts	$75
ACS56, 5 Piece, Digital, 35 Watts total	$99
ATP5, 5 Piece, Surround Sound, 80 Watts total	$155
IBM	
IBM545, 5 Piece, 40 Watts	$115
Creative Labs	
CSW1500, 4 point surround, 53 Watts	$130
DTT2200, 6 Piece, Desk Theatre 5.1, 42W	$115
PS2000, 2 Piece, Playwork Digital Dolby, 22W	$175
DTT2500, 6 Pc, Desktop Theatre, Dolby, 42W	$215
DTT3500, 6 Piece, Desk Theatre, 5.1, 65W	$259
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MM700, 3 Piece, 44 Watts	$109
MM1000, 3 Piece, 50 Watts	$157

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PCI	ATI, 32MB 100-708036	$195
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AGP	ATI Xpert 2000PRO 32MB WB	$95
AGP	ATI Rage Fury Pro 32MB	$119
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MOTHERBOARDS

Socket A (Thunderbird)				
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ASUS	A7V	$155		
FIC	AZ11	$109	AZ11U100	$126
	AZ31	$135		
GIGABYTE	GA7ZM	$138	GA71XE4	$109
	GA7ZX1	$117		
MicroStar	K7T PRO	$119		
Tyan	S2390	$125		
Socket 370 (Flip Chip/Celeron)				
ABIT	SL6	$129	VP6	$165
	SE6	$149	BX133RAID	$125
	SA6R	$165	VL6	$89
ASUS	CUSL2-C	$139	CUV4X	$115
	CUSL2	$155	CUBX	$125
FIC	FA11	$85	FW11U100	$99
	FA31	$95	KW37L	$105
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TYAN	S2060	$129	S2507	$169
Socket 423 (Pentium 4)				
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GIGABYTE	GA-8TX	$249		
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PROCESSORS

Socket A (Thunderbird) 3yr wty & Golden Orb fan

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800MHz	$149	1GHz	$239
850MHz	$165	1.1GHz	$289
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Socket A (Duron) 3yr wty & Golden Orb fan

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Socket 370 (Flip Chip) 3yr wty, fan, heatsink

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633MHz	$105	933MHz	$419
800MHz	$235	1GHz	$565

Socket 370 (Celeron) 3yr wty, fan, heatsink

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*3D4MBAGPVideocard
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*SupermicroS760AFull-Tower/300W
*MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard

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*TridentT975,3DAGPw/4MB
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*Adaptec7890,U2,80MB/sec
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*48xSpeedIDECD-ROM
*4MPCIVGA,1.44floppydrive
*IntelExpressProPCI10/100BT
*2U/19"Rackmount,w/250WATX
*3xPCIRisercard
*MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard

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*Black1U/19"Rackmount,200W

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*IntegratedPCIVGA,8M
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*PS/2104keyboard&MS-Mouse
*Black1Uor2U/19"Rackmount

DualP3-600E/600EB	$1679/$1699
DualP3-650E/667EB	$1729/$1749
DualP3-700E/733EB	$1769/$1799
DualP3-750E/800EB	$1819/$1859
DualP3-850E/866EB	$1899/$1919
DualP3-933EB/1000EB	$2169/$2459

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*4MPCIVGA,1.44floppydrive
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*MS-Mouse&104keysKeyboard

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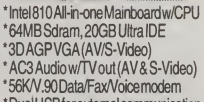
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- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- 19" 1280x1024 .26 SVGA Monitor
- Cambridge Digital Powercube 3-Speakers Set with Subwoofer
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAffe Virus Scan, CD Bundle,
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$1889
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$1929
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$2049
250MB Zip Drive	Add $49
16 x DVD Drive	Add $49
60GB Hard Drive	Add $89
21".26 Monitor	Add $369
16x10x40 CDRW Drive	Add $99

SCHOLAR STATION-4000

AMD Duron AS LOW AS $699

- 700MHz AMD Duron™ Processor
- 64MB PC133 SDRAM Memory
- 20.5GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-100 HDD
- 8x4x32 Max Variable Speed CDRW
- 1,44MB 3.5 FDD Drive
- 4xAGP SIS-730 3D Video Graphics
- V.90 Standard 56K Fax/Modem
- Sound Pro-32 3D Sound Card
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- 60W Multimedia Stereo Speakers
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan, CD Bundle
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

AMD Duron™ 700MHz	$699
AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$739
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$829
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$929
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$1029
128MB RAM	Add $79
30.5GB HDD	Add $39
USB Scanner	Add $ 69
12x DVD ROM	Add $79
Epson-777 USB Color Printer	Add $99

POWER STATION-1000

Intel Inside Pentium 4 AS LOW AS $1999

- 1.4GHz Pentium® - 4 Processor
- 128MB PC800 RDRAM Memory
- 30,5GB 7200rpm UDMA/100 HDD
- 32MB Matrox G450 4xAGP Graphics
- 12x10x32 Max Variable CDRW Drive
- Sound Blaster Live Value PCI Sound Card
- Diamond Supra 56k V.90 Fax/Modem
- 10/100BASE-T Network Card
- Enlight Tower or Desktop Case
- 19" 1600x1280 .26 SVGA Monitor
- 60W Multimedia Stereo Speakers
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- McAFee Virus Scan, CD Bundle,
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

Pentium® -4 1.4GHz	$1999
Pentium® -4 1.5GHz	$2329
Sound Blaster Live Platinum	Add $119
256 MB RDRAM	Add $249
D-Link Digital Camera	Add $119
MS Office-2000SBE	Add $199
75.2GB 7200rpm HDD	Add $249
12x32 DVD/CD-RW	Add $149

ALL-in-ONE PC-5000

Intel Inside Pentium III AS LOW AS $639

- 700MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor
- 64MB PC133 SDRAM Memory
- 20.5GB 7200 rpm Ultra ATA-100 HDD
- 4MB AGP 3D Video Graphics
- V.90 Standard 56K Fax/Modem
- 12x Max Variable Speed DVD Dive
- 1,44MB 3.5" FDD Drive
- Sound Pro 3D PCI Sound Card
- PCI 10/100BASE-T Network Card
- Slim Mini Tower or Desktop Case
- Multimedia Stereo Speakers
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows ME or 98SE
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan, CD Bundle,
- 72 Title PC Starter Kit
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

Intel® Celeron™ 700MHz	$639
Intel® Celeron™ 733MHz	$659
Pentium® III 800MHz	$739
Pentium® III 933MHz	$899
Pentium® III 1.0GHz	$999
17" , 27 Monitor	Add $159
19" , 27 Monitor	Add $269
15" ,LCD Monitor	Add $599
45.5GB Hard Drive	Add $69
12x10x32 CD-RW	Add $159

ADAMANT'S BAREBONE SYSTEMS

Athlon™ INTEGRATED BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
266MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
with IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller
64MB PC133 SDRAM, 1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in HDD/FDD IDE UDMA/100 Controller,
SIS 3D Video Accelerator,
Sound-Pro 3D PCI Sound Card on Board
On board Sound-Pro 3D PCI Sound Card
PS/2 Enhanced Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse

AMD Duron™	800MHz	$319
AMD Athlon™	1.0GHz	$419
AMD Athlon™	1.2GHz	$519
AMD Athlon™	1.3GHz	$639

Athlon™ DDR BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
266MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
64MB PC2100 DDR Memory
1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in NDD/FDD IDE RAID/100 Controller,
On Board Sound-Pro 3D PCI Sound Card,
PS/2 Enhanced Keyboard,
PS/2 Mouse

AMD Duron™	800MHz	$469
AMD Athlon™	1.0GHz	$569
AMD Athlon™	1.2GHz	$669
AMD Athlon™	1.3GHz	$779

P-III INTEGRATED BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case, 300W Power Supply
133MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
64MB PC133 SDRAM,1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in HDD/FDD IDE UDMA/100 Controller
SIS 3D Video Accelerator, Sound-Pro 3D,
PCI Sound Card on board,
PS/2 Enhanced Keyboard,
PS/2 Mouse

Intel® Celeron™ 700MHz		$289
Intel® Celeron™ 733MHz		$309
Pentium® III 800/933MHz		$389/529
Pentium® III	1000MHz	$639

P-4 CLASSIC BAREBONE

Enlight ATX Case,
300W Power Supply
400MHz Bus Speed Motherboard
128MB PC800 RDRAM Memory
1.44MB 3.5" FDD
Built-in HDD/FDD
IDE UDMA/100 Controller,
On Board Sound-Pro
3D PCI Sound Card,
PS/2 Enhanced Keyboard,
PS/2 Mouse

Pentium® - 4 1.4GHz	$1099
Pentium® - 4 1.5GHz	$1429

ADAMANT'S 6 TOP SELLING MOTHERBOARDS OF THE MONTH

ABIT KT7 RAID/100 $145



VIA Chipset,200MHz Bus Speed, 6-PCI, 1-ISA, 1-4x AGP Slot, 3-168 pin Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Built-in IDE RAID, IDE UDMA/100and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor

AMD Duron™ 700MHz	$215
AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$239
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$329
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$425
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$535

ASUS A7V $145



VIA KT133 Chipset, 200MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-4x AGP Pro Slot, 3-168 pin Memory Slots, AMI PnP BIOS, 4-USB Ports, Build-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.

AMD Duron™ 700MHz	$215
AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$239
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$329
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$425
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$535

IWILL KA266-R $175



ALI Chipset, 266MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-AMR,1-4xAGP Slot, 3-DDR Memory Slots, 2-USB Ports, Award PnP BIOS, Build-in IDE RAID/100, IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.

AMD Duron™ 700MHz	$239
AMD Duron™ 800MHz	$269
AMD Athlon™ 1.0GHz	$359
AMD Athlon™ 1.2GHz	$465
AMD Athlon™ 1.3GHz	$575

DFI CA64EC $79



VIA 694X Chipset, 133MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-ISA, 1-4xAGP Slot, 3-168 pin Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Build-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor.

Intel®Celeron™ 700MHz	$175
Intel®Celeron™ 733MHz	$195
Pentium® III 800MHz	$265
Pentium® III 866MHz	$309
Pentium® III 933MHz	$409
Pentium® III 1.0GHz	$519

ASUS CUSL2 $139



i815E Chipset, 133MHz Bus Speed, 6-PCI, 2-AMR, 1-4xAGP Pro Slot, 3-168 pin Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Build-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, AT Form Factor

Intel®Celeron™ 700MHz	$239
Intel®Celeron™ 733MHz	$259
Pentium® III 800MHz	$329
Pentium® III 866MHz	$379
Pentium® III 933MHz	$479
Pentium® III 1.0GHz	$579

INTEL D850GB $229



i850E Chipset, 400MHz Bus Speed, 5-PCI, 1-CNR, 1-4xAGP Slot, 4-RDRAM Memory Slots, Award PnP BIOS, 2-USBPorts, Built-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX Form Factor

Pentium®-4 1.4GHz	$999
Pentium®-4 1.5GH	$1379
128MB RDRAM PC800 RAM MODULE	FREE

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Hard Drive: IBM FUJITSU Maxtor Western Digital Seagate (SCSI. IDE)

POWER SUPPLIES

FOR ATX MOTHERBOARD

ATX SIZE(20 pin x 1)
230 - 400W
(6 x 5½ x 3⅜)

FOR AT MOTHERBOARD

SS SIZE(6 pin x 2)
230 - 400W
(6 x 5½ x 3⅜)

FOR AT MOTHERBOARD

ATT SIZE
230 - 600W
(8⅜ x 6 x 5⅞)

FOR AT MOTHERBOARD

AT SIZE
230 - 600W
(8⅜ x 6 x 5⅞)

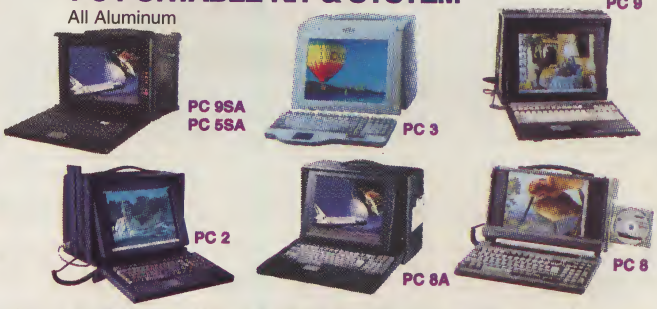
PRICE	ATX	SS	AT & ATT
230W	$37	$37	$45
250W	42	42	55
J 250W	55	Jinco Power 2.01	
300W	62	62	72
J 330W	77	Jinco Power with	
J 350W	97	2 ball bearing Fan	
400W	/	140	140
J 400W ~J430W	137	Jinco Power with 2 ball bearing Fan	
500/600	/	/	240/310
J530W	227	Jinco Power 2Fan	

DC Power Supply
12V-250W AT & ATX $246
48V-300W/350W AT & ATX $261/284

Jinco PowerSupply
1- Meet Intel 2.01 & 2.03 Version.
2- Dual Ball Bearing Fan (300W & up)
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4- Thermol Control Fan
5- Noiseless & long life
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7- 250W, 300W, 330W, 430W, 530W
8- Meet K7 & Petium IV
9- Longer wire & more connector

PC PORTABLE KIT & SYSTEM

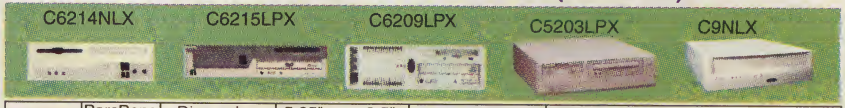
All Aluminum





15" LCD Monitor
TFT 1024x768

SUPER SLIMLINE WORKSTATION (BOOK PC)



Model	BareBone Price	Dimension W.D.H(inch)	5.25" Ext./Int.	3.5" Ext./Int.	Slot PCI / ISA	Motherboard I/O PORTS
6214NLX SKT370	$495 w/CD, FD	11.3x13.2x3.3	W/Slim CD & FDD 1/0	1/1	2PCI	PS2, Speaker/LineIn/Mic, Game, USB, 1P.1S, VGA, RJ45LAN,PS, S-IR, Volume, Network M
C6215LPX SKT370	$385	11.9x12.6x3	1/0	1/1	2PCI	2S, 1P, Floppy, USB, RJ-45, PS/2 Mouse, PS/2 Keyboard, VGA, Audio, Game, IR / PS
C6209LPX SKT370	$350	11.8X12.5X3	1/0	1/1	2PCI, 1AMR, 1PTI	PS2, Speaker/LineIn/Mic, Game, USB, 1P.1S, VGA, RJ45LAN,PS, S-IR, Volume, Network M
C5203LPX	$310 Socket 7	12.4X14.5X3.4	1/0	1/1	2PCI	PS2 Kb&Ms,Speaker/LineIn, 1P.2S, VGA, USB, RJ45LAN, Audio / PS
C9NLX	$425	12.5X16.25X4	1/0	1/1	3PCI or 2PCI 1ISA	2S, 1P, Floppy, USB, RJ-45, PS/2 Mouse, PS/2 Keyboard, VGA, Audio, Game, IR / PS

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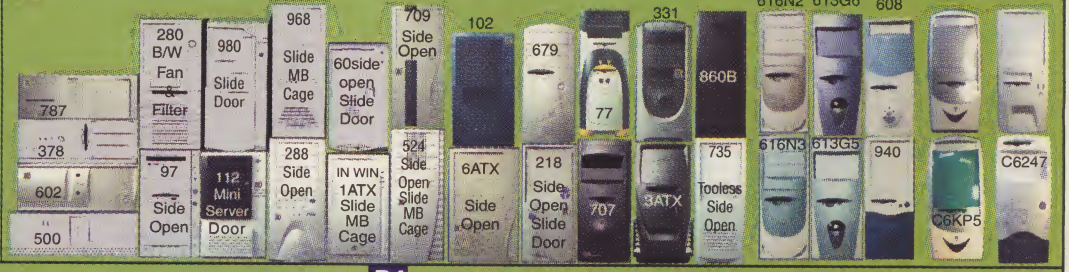
Jinco Supplies best quality and brand name components!

Video Cards	File Server Case	Cooling Accessories
Sound Cards	Ext SCSI Tower Case	CD / CDRW / DVD Drive
Power Supplies	ATX Desktop Cases	LPX / NLX /Low Profile
Portable PCs	ATX Mid Tower Cases	CPUs: Pentium III, IV
Motherboard	ATX Full Tower Cases	AMD K7 TB 1G-1.2G
Hard Drives	19" Rackmount Cases	Memery: RD/SD RAM

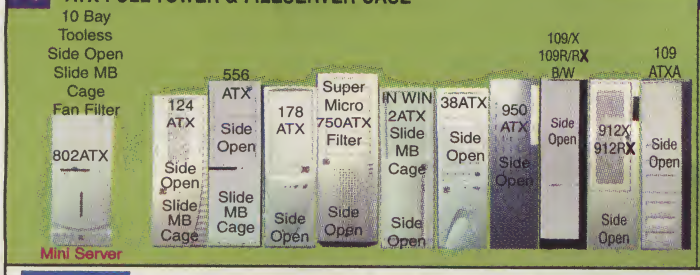
P1 EXTERNAL SCSI CASE



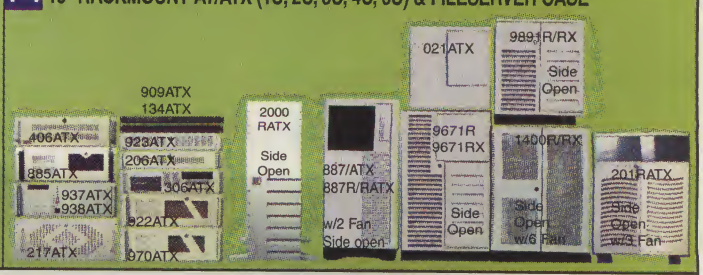
P2 ATX DESKTOP & ATX MID. TOWER CASE



P3 ATX FULL TOWER & FILESERVER CASE



P4 19" RACKMOUNT AT/ATX (1U, 2U, 3U, 4U, 6U) & FILESERVER CASE



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MEMORY



LIFETIME WARRANTY

72 PIN MEMORY	
8MB 2X32-60 EDO	$16.00
16MB 4X32-60 EDO	$43.00
32MB 8X32-60 EDO	$78.00
FPM & Parity Available	CALL
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32MB 4X64 66Mhz	$21.00
64MB 8X64 66Mhz	$41.00
128MB 16X64 66Mhz	$71.00
32MB 4X64 PC100	$19.00
64MB 8X64 PC100	$34.00
128MB 16X64 PC100	$64.00
256MB 16X64 PC100	$110.00
64MB 8X64 PC133	$34.00
128MB 16X64 PC133	$64.00
256MB 16X64 PC133	$112.00
RAMBUS	
128MB ECC 800Mhz	$209.00
256MB ECC 800Mhz	$598.00

VIDEO CARDS

DIAMOND	
StealthIII S540 32mb	$65.00
Viper2 Z200 32mb	$85.00
MATROX	
G450/16Dualhead DDR	$95.00
G450/32Dualhead DDR	$136.00
ASUS	
Geforce2 7100 32mb	$125.00
Geforce2 7700 32mb	$188.00
Geforce2 7700 64mb	$309.00
TCW	
SIS 4mb PCI	$25.00
SIS 3D 8mb AGP	$30.00
TNT2Vanta16mbAGP	$46.00
TRIDENT	
Blade 3D 4mb AGP	$29.00
Blade 3D 8mb PCI	$33.00
Blade 3D 8mb AGP	$30.00
Blade 3D 8mb DVD	$35.00
ATI	
3D Charger 8mb AGP	$37.00
All in1 128 32mbAGP	$175.00
Xpert@PI98 8mb AGP	$42.00
Xpert 128 16mb AGP	$54.00
Xpert 2000 32b AGP	$62.00
RageFury 32mb	$89.00
RageFury 64mbMax	$92.00
Radeon All in 1 32MB	$242.00
Radeon 32mb AGP	$131.00
Radeon 64mb AGP	$21400
STB	
Voodoo33500 16mb/tv	$130.00
Voodoo4 4500 32mb	$117.00

CPUs

AMD

AMD Athlon

THUNDERBIRD SOCKET A	
T-Bird 1200Mhz	$234.00
T-Bird 1100Mhz	$187.00
T-Bird 1000Mhz	$165.00
T-Bird 950Mhz	$139.00
T-Bird 900Mhz	$108.00
T-Bird 850Mhz	$105.00
T-Bird 800Mhz	$96.00
DURON	
Duron 850Mhz	$78.00
Duron 800Mhz	$68.00
Duron 750Mhz	$57.00
Duron 700Mhz	$50.00
Duron 650Mhz	$42.00
K6 - 2	
K6-2 550 Mhz	$69.00
K6-2 500 Mhz	$46.00

Buy a fan w/ any cpu for a 1year warranty!

INTEL

PENTIUM III FLIP CHIP	
P-III 933Mhz PC133	$235.00
P-III 866Mhz PC133	$168.00
P-III 850Mhz PC100	$165.00
P-III 800Mhz PC133	$138.00
P-III 800Mhz PC100	$136.00
P-III 750Mhz PC100	$127.00
P-III 733Mhz PC133	$124.00
P-III 700Mhz PC100	$116.00
P-III 667Mhz PC133	$114.00
P-III 650Mhz PC100	$110.00
PENTIUM III SLOT	
P-III 866Mhz PC133	$177.00
P-III 850Mhz PC100	$159.00
P-III 800Mhz PC100	$141.00
P-III 750Mhz PC100	$135.00
P-III 733Mhz PC133	$128.00
P-III 700Mhz PC100	$121.00
P-III 667Mhz PC133	$115.00
CELERON 2 FCPGA	
Celeron 700Mhz	$80.00
Celeron 667Mhz	$74.00
Celeron 600Mhz	$69.00
Celeron 566Mhz	$59.00

MONITORS

All Have a 3 Year Warranty!



RELISYS	
15" LCD 90* rotate	$680.00
17" Digital .28 3yr.	$176.00
17" Digital .25 3yr.	$213.00
19" Digital .26 3yr	$319.00
MGC	
15" Digital .28 3yr..	$129.00
17" Digital .27 3yr.	$183.00
KDS	
17" Digital .27 3yr.	$169.00
17" Digital .24 3yr.	$237.00
19" Digital .26 3yr	$279.00
21" Digital .25 3yr	$661.00
PROVIEW	
15" Digital .28 3yr.	$114.00
VIEWSONIC	
17" GT775 .26 3yr.	$366.00
21" P810-4 .22 3yr	$855.00

MOTHER-BOARDS



Other Boards in Stock!

ASUS	
A7V Sckt.A PC133	$148.00
CUV4X Sckt.370	$119.00
CUSL2 815e Vid.	$152.00
P3V4X PC133	$114.00
BIOSTAR	
M5VNB AT snd/vid	$67.00
M7VKB KT133 SktA	$99.00
M7MKE K7 PC133	$101.00
M6TWG 370/Slot/vid.	$75.00
M6VCG Sckt370	$82.00
FIC	
503a SupSckt 7	$78.00
503+ Sup. Sckt 7	$75.00
ABIT	
KT7 Sckt A	$149.00
KT7 Raid ScktA	$165.00
MICROSTAR	
K7 Pro 6195	$99.00
K7T Pro 2-A	$131.00
INTEL	
815EA Vid.Snd.370	$135.00
815EAL Vid.Snd.LAN	$147.00

CD ROMS

48X Mitsumi IDE	$40.00
50X IDE	$34.00
56X IDE	$39.00
50X Asus IDE	$44.00
8/8/32 RW Samsung	$135.00
16/10/40 RW Yamaha	$253.00

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Afreey DVD 10X IDE	$80.00
Samsung DVD 12X	$85.00

SOUND CARDS

USS ISA 16bit	$9.00
ESS PCI Solo	$14.00
Yamaha PCI 32bit	$16.00
Creative ISA 16bit	$25.00
Creative PCI 16bit	$21.00
Creative PCI 128	$32.00
Creative Live Value	$49.00
Diamond MX400 PCI	$45.00

SPEAKERS

125w w/power	$8.00
Flat Panel w/ Sub	$27.00
Kinyo PS513 3-D	$22.00
KinyoSA210 Mini Sub	$27.00
Kinyo SW4315 w/sub+surr. snd.	$45.00
Kinyo TA-419 5pc	$59.00

Prices estimated on market trends as of 1/15/2001

NETWORK



HUBS	
5port Mini w/AC	$19.00
8port Mini w/AC	$25.00
8port 10/100 w/AC	$69.00
16port 10/100 w/AC	$181.00
DSL/Cable Mod. Router	$97.00
CARDS	
ISA 10 baseT 3yr.	$9.00
PCI 10 baseT 3yr.	$9.00
PCI 10/100 3yr.	$12.00
Intel Pro 10/100	$39.00
3Com 10/100 905btz	$44.00

MODEMS



56K	
ISA Voice	$34.00
Intel PCI Full Dplx	$17.00
Lucent PCI	$15.00
Rockwell Full Dplx	$34.00

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MAXTOR	
20GB 66/5400/2mb	$99.00
20GB 100/7200/2mb	$105.00
30GB 100/7200/2mb	$121.00
40GB 100/7200/2mb	$152.00
61GB 66/5400/2mb	$195.00
81GB 100/5400/2MB	$256.00
WESTERN DIGITAL	
20.5GB 100/5400/2mb	$102.00
20.5GB 100/7200/2mb	$118.00
30.0GB 66/5400/2mb	$126.00
30.0GB 100/7200/2mb	$134.00
45.0GB 66/5400/2mb	$133.00
40.0GB 66/7200/2mb	$149.00
SAMSUNG	
10.2GB 66/5400/512	$61.00
20.0GB 66/5400/512	$98.00
30.0GB 66/5400/512	$111.00
40.0GB 66/5400/512	$119.00
IBM	
30GB 100/7200/2mb	$128.00
40GB 100/5400/2mb	$131.00
45GB 100/7200/2mb	$157.00
60GB 100/7200/2mb	$229.00
75GB 100/7200/2mb	$325.00
SEAGATE	
20.0GB 100/5400/2mb	$105.00
30.0GB 66/7200/2mb	$129.00
IOMEGA	
100mb IDE Int. Zip	$46.00
250mb Internal	$84.00

Many Other Items Are Shown Online

CASES



Mini Tower AT 250w	$28.00
Mid Tower AT 250w	$30.00
Full Tower AT 300w	$42.00
Mid Tower ATX 250w	$42.00
Mid Tower ATX 300w	$59.00
Full Tower ATX 300w	$69.00
Full ATX Hydraulic	$99.00
Enlight Mid ATX 7237	$57.00
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TUNE-UP

You Can Take It With You

by Alfred Poor

Moving Your Old Data, Apps, and Settings to a New PC

One of the more interesting ironies of using a PC is that the more effort you've put into making your system just right, the more reluctant you may find yourself to buy a new system. The problem, in a nutshell: How do you quickly and easily move years of accumulated software, settings, and data to your new fire-breathing speed demon?

Try a simple copy of all the program files, and you're in for disappointment: Almost all Windows applications depend on information entered in the Windows Registry by their setup programs, and this information won't be carried over if you simply copy the program files. If you copy the Registry files from your old system to the new, you're asking for more problems than you'd wish on your worst enemy, because the old Registry won't match the hardware in the new system. And don't even think of simply moving your old hard drive to the boot position in the new system: It's likely the system won't even boot. At the very least you'll likely have lots of problems with Plug and Play as it sorts out the hardware, and you'll need to install new drivers for the new hardware.

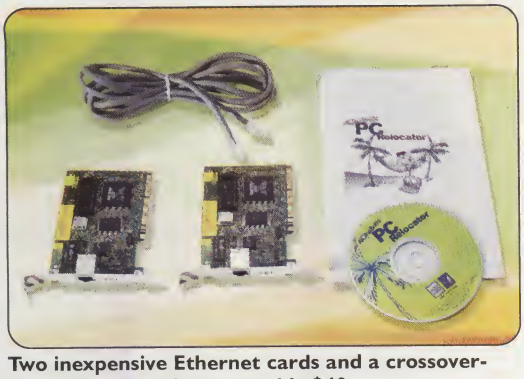
The good, old-fashioned approach is to copy all the data files to your new system and then reinstall all the programs. You could then manually re-create all the customizations you made on your old system over the years. This approach can take countless hours even when all goes smoothly, and there's ample room for problems to appear. For instance, are you sure you'll be able to find the original installation disks, CDs, or downloaded files for your software?

Of course, we wouldn't be bothering with this topic if we didn't have a better solution: a class of programs known as "migration utilities." These utilities are brainy enough to make appropriate Windows Registry changes when moving programs and data from one computer to another, so that the transferred applications actually work. They even transfer customized Windows settings, such as your Desktop wallpaper.

To move from a Dell Dimension XPS T450 to a Tiny 800MHz Pentium III system, we chose AlohaBob's PC-Relocator 2.0 from Eisenworld *(www.eisenworld.com)*. This program is difficult to beat for individual users and works with Windows 95, 98, and Me. To speed the process dramatically (and leave us with a simple network in the bargain), we installed a $15 Ethernet interface card in the system that lacked Ethernet connectivity, giving PC-Relocator 2.0 a reliable, high-speed data-transfer path. (See the sidebar "A Parallel World" for instructions on using a parallel-port transfer.)

1 Prepare for your upgrade.

Many computers now come with Ethernet adapters as standard equipment, but you can add a PCI network interface card (NIC) to one or both systems that don't. To connect the two systems directly—without a hub—you'll need a crossover-type RJ-45 Ethernet cable, which should cost less than $10. You'll also need to purchase AlohaBob's PC-Relocator 2.0, which costs $49.95 in either a downloaded or boxed version.

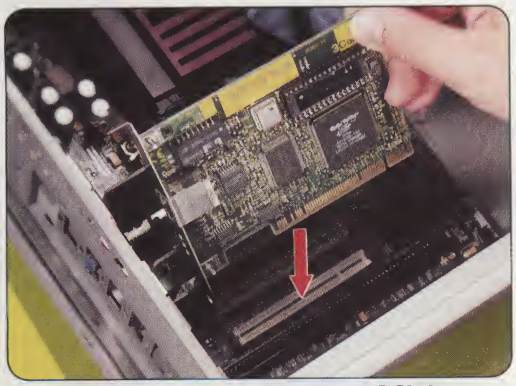


Two inexpensive Ethernet cards and a crossover-type cable should cost roughly $40.

{TIP} Consider purchasing a hub for your budding Ethernet network if you plan to use it on a regular basis, such as to share a printer or a broadband (DSL or cable) Internet connection. A hub typically lets you connect as many as five devices and may support longer cable lengths. Numerous companies sell network starter kits that include two Ethernet cards, a hub, and necessary cabling for as little as $60.

2 Install the Ethernet hardware.

For each system lacking an Ethernet connection, install an Ethernet adapter in an empty PCI slot. Then connect the two systems by plugging each end of the crossover Ethernet cable into one of the network cards. When you power up each system, Windows will detect the new Ethernet cards and begin the process of installing necessary drivers. Follow the directions provided with your Ethernet card, inserting any provided driver disks when appropriate.



Install each Ethernet card in an open PCI slot.

{TIP} You'll want to make a point of backing up your new system's hard drive before you run PC-Relocator 2.0. Making the backup before you install any new hardware or software is also a good idea, to save system settings from as close as possible to its from-the-factory state.

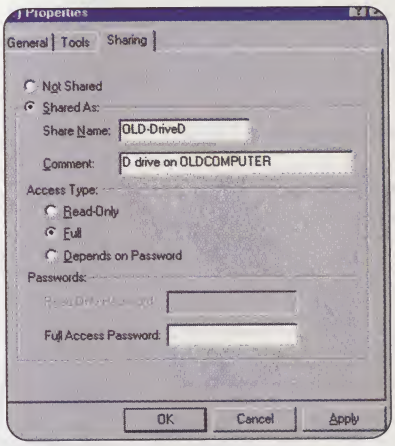
3 Configure Windows network settings.

You need to configure your computers to recognize each other across the network connection. If your new system is running Windows Me, this should be a breeze: Choose Start-Programs-Accessories-Communications, then Home Networking Wizard. The wizard will help you set up file and device sharing in a snap and will configure the system so that it can be accessed on the network. It can also create a floppy you can use to automatically configure systems that are running older versions of Windows, and you're wasting your own time and energy if you don't take advantage of this capability.

If neither system is using Windows Me—if both are using Windows 95 or 98—then right-click on the Network Neighborhood icon on your Desktop, and choose Properties. Make sure you have the TCP/IP protocol installed for your network adapters on both systems, and that you enable file and printer sharing by clicking on the File and Print Sharing button and then checking the appropriate options. Then click on the Identification tab, and enter Computer name and Workgroup designations, making sure you enter the same Workgroup name on both systems.

4 Verify file sharing.

After rebooting your systems, double-click on Network Neighborhood in Windows 95 or 98 (or My Network Places in Windows Me) and verify that both systems appear on each PC. Also make sure that the hard drives of each system are shown as available resources when you click on each system. If not, right-click on the icon for each drive in either Windows Explorer or My Computer, choose Sharing, click the Shared As radio button, and enter a name and access type for the drive. Note that this step isn't strictly necessary—PC-Relocator will work just fine whether or not you enable sharing on the hard drives—but this step will be necessary if you want to share resources before or after using PC-Relocator.



Right-click on each drive to be shared to set its sharing options under Windows 95 or 98.

A Parallel World

If your new computer will be your only system—or you just don't want to spend the $40 or so on Ethernet cards and cabling—then it probably makes sense to stick with a parallel-cable connection. In its boxed version, PC-Relocator 2.0 includes a parallel transfer cable, a special type of parallel cable that allows communication directly between two systems. If you download the PC-Relocator program from the Web, you can still get a parallel transfer cable from another source. Sometimes referred to as LapLink cables, these are the same cables that are often used to transfer files between desktop and notebook computers. They sell for as little as $5 to $10.

The parallel-cable connection is easier to configure than an Ethernet network: You simply plug the cable into the parallel ports of the old and new computers. PC-Relocator will automatically establish the communication for you when you tell it that you're using a parallel connection.

The main drawback of a parallel connection is its snail's-pace transfer rate. According to Eisenworld's estimates, you can expect successful migration of a *gigabyte of data in 30 to 60* minutes across an Ethernet network, but 2 to 5 hours across a parallel connection.

TUNE-UP

Online Resources

Connecting your systems with a simple Ethernet network isn't much more difficult than installing two PCI cards and hooking up a cable between them. Still, additional guidance never hurts. For great information about setting up a network explained in nontechnical terms, try the homePCnetwork ***(www.homepcnetwork.com/ethernet.htm)***. If you're looking for a more technical view of networking that is still written in a clear and accessible style, check out the TechFest Ethernet Technical Summary ***(www.techfest.com/networking/lan/ethernet.htm)***.

Finally, if you have problems with hardware in your new system or you've lost the drivers for an old peripheral that you want to attach to the new system, try The Driver Guide ***(www.driverguide.com)*** or WinDrivers.com ***(www.windrivers.com)***.

Install AlohaBob's PC-Relocator.

Install PC-Relocator 2.0 on both the old and the new computers. The software will refer to the old system as the Source PC and the new system as the Target.

{TIP} The Source and Target PCs can have different versions of Windows (95, 98, or Me), but the version on the Target PC must be the same as or newer than the Source PC's version.

Prepare each system for the migration process.

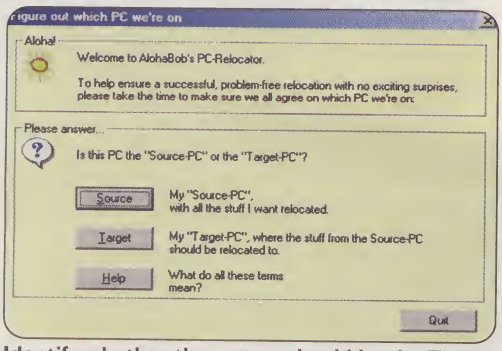
Following the documentation for AlohaBob's PC-Relocator, get both computers ready for the migration process. This includes running ScanDisk, running a virus scanner, and turning off power-management features.

If the hard drive in your old system is partitioned into more volumes than the hard drive in your new system, you'll need to decide whether to partition the Target system's drive the same way or to let PC-Relocator handle the problem. If you let AlohaBob do it, PC-Relocator will create a subdirectory for each source-drive partition on the Target drive and then load all contents of each partition into the appropriate subdirectory.

{TIP} It's always a good idea to pare down your belongings before you move. Particularly if you'll be using a slow connection between systems, spend at least a few minutes browsing your old system with an eye toward eliminating software you know you'll no longer use. Putting some effort into this step will both minimize clutter on your new system and speed the migration process.

Start PC-Relocator on the source and target.

Start the PC-Relocator program on the Source PC. Choose Continue at the first screen, then choose the Source PC button on the second screen. Now start PC-Relocator on the Target PC. Choose Continue at the first screen, then choose the Target PC button. If you're running Windows Me, you will be prompted to create a Startup Disk, which you'll need if you want to undo the migration procedure later.



Identify whether the system should be the Target or the Source.

Identify the Source PC.

To communicate with the Source PC, the Target PC needs to know the Source's TCP/IP address. PC-Relocator takes care of this for you: You simply choose the Browse button on the Establish Method of Connection window in PC-Relocator, and it will find the addresses of any computers connected to the network. Simply choose the network name of the Source computer—in our example, OLDCOMPUTER.

Initiate migration.

PC-Relocator will prepare the Target PC for the transfer. If it finds different versions of the same applications on each system, it may advise you to uninstall the application from the Target PC, to avoid possible conflicts between the two versions. In our case, PC-Relocator advised that we remove Microsoft Office, but the migration worked well even though we ignored this warning.

PC-Relocator then compares the files on the two computers to create an optimal plan for the transfer. Afterward it will display a window reminding you not to use either computer during the transfer. When you are ready to proceed with the migration, click the Go button.

Tools for the Move

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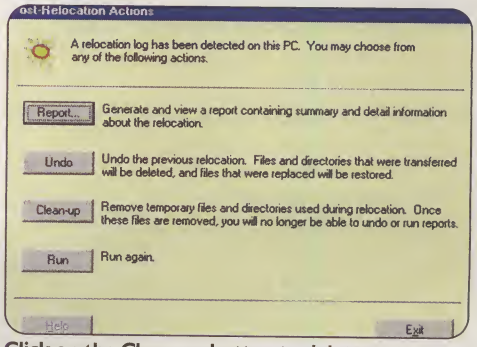
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Test the migration.

The Target PC will automatically reboot when the transfer is complete. If any migrated applications fail to work correctly, you may need to reinstall them from the original disks. During our tests, all transferred applications worked without a problem. In the unlikely event that the migration has caused more problems that it might solve, consider the Undo function, which will restore the Target PC to its original state.

{TIP} Once you have verified that the transfer is complete and successful, make another complete backup of the Target PC. This will keep you from having to repeat the transfer should you need to restore the disk later.



Click on the Clean-up button to delete temporary and "undo" files stored on the Target PC.

Clean house.

Once you're sure everything on your new PC is working properly, start AlohaBob's PC-Relocator again on the Target PC and choose the Clean-Up button. This will delete any temporary files and the information required to undo the transfer, freeing up additional space on the Target PC's hard drive. ▼

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ALFRED POOR'S

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ALFRED POOR

VIEWABLE PRINTABLES

Dear Alfred:

I have a Windows program that can only send its output to a printer. I want to create a file of the output that I can send as an e-mail attachment that someone else can view onscreen. I created a PRN file by setting my printer to create a file rather than connect to a port, but I when I open the program in Microsoft Word for Windows, all I see is garbage. What program can I use to view the contents of this file?

Laurance Foye

You started on the right track, but there's a small problem with the way you've tried to solve it. A PRN file is a printer-output file and contains all the printer commands necessary for correct fonts, spacing, and so forth. If your recipient has the same type of printer as you do, he or she could use it to print a page with similar results.

If you want to view your program's output onscreen, however, you need to capture it in a way that does not contain all the printer commands. If all you want is to capture the text in a file, try adding a new printer in your Printers folder, and use the Generic/Text Only printer (under the Manufacturer "Generic" in Windows 98). This will let you create a file that contains only text.

AS THE DISK CHURNS

Dear Alfred:

My system has 64MB of memory and runs Windows 98. When I try to access sites using Internet Explorer 5, the hard drive spins for a few minutes before opening the page. It seems to happen more often with graphics-intensive and Java sites. My 6GB hard drive has plenty of space left, so that can't be the problem. Is there anything I can do to fix this?

Randy Craft

Sounds like the hard drive is thrashing as your system swaps content from the main memory to the virtual-memory swap file on your hard drive. The fact that Java and graphics content on Web pages causes the problem supports this theory, because they can contain a large chunk of data. I'll bet that adding another 32MB or 64MB of memory to your system will make a huge difference. If you want to see exactly how much of your hard drive is being used for virtual memory, choose Start/Programs/Accessories/System Tools, and run the System Monitor. Under the Edit menu, select Add Item/Memory Manager, and then select the Swapfile in Use option to see how much of the virtual memory is in use. Install that much more memory, and performance should speed up significantly.

RATING BROADBAND

Dear Alfred:

I have a cable connection for my Internet access, and I understand that the performance can be affected by the number of other users connected to the same branch. Is there some software for Windows 98 that I could run that would tell me how many people are sharing this bandwidth with me?

Bill Callihan

I don't know of any way to check the number of users on your network—there may be some sophisticated "sniffer" device that you could use—but the real issue here is bandwidth. If 1,000 users are sharing your connection doing nothing but surfing, you'll have faster performance than if only 10 users are downloading and uploading huge files constantly. I'd advise you to explore some of the Web sites out there that can measure your connection speed. Try ***www.dslreports.com/stest/0,*** or go to ***www.broadbandwizard.net*** and download the trial version of its utility. If you monitor the changes in speed at different times of day, you'll get the best indication of how much other users are slowing you down. ▼

tip of the month

PC X-RAY

What speed processor do you have inside your computer? And what model network card does it have, exactly? Can you tell me what BIOS version it is running? How about the motherboard revision number? If I had to answer these questions a few weeks ago, I'd reach for my toolkit to start dismantling the system case. Now, I just have to click on my browser, thanks to this month's tipster.



Dear Alfred:

If you ever have to check the hardware configuration of a system, and you want to avoid opening the case, simply log on to ***www.belarc.com*** *and choose the Try Belarc option. From here you can download a client program that works with a database on the company's server to identify your system's components. You can then print out a report for future reference.*

Gene Cenis

That's a great tip! There are two other points I like about the Belarc utility. First, it lists all the installed programs on your system, and it tells you where they are installed so you can get rid of them if you want. It also does not send your system information to the Belarc server, but instead uses the server database as a reference to process the information locally, leaving little risk that someone will be able to steal information about your system.

Send us your favorite tip, and you could receive a tipster's prize package, including a coveted "Computer Cures" T-shirt (one size fits all), plus some other secret and exciting items that you can't get anywhere else!

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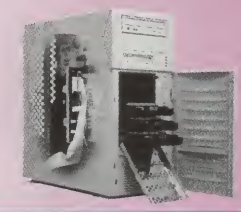
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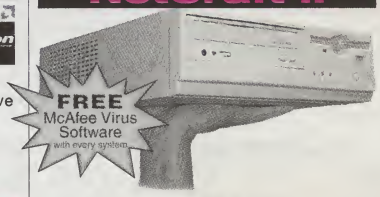
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1.5 GHz 1189

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1.5 GHz 1099

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933/MHz 679
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750MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache 219
800MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache 239
850MHz Pentium™ III processor 256K cache 279

Intel®Pentium™ III 133MHz FSB
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Thunderbird K7™ 1 GHz 199
Thunderbird K7™ 1.1 GHz 259
Thunderbird K7™ 1.2 GHz 299

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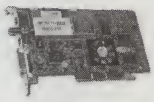
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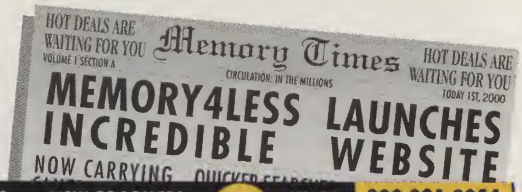
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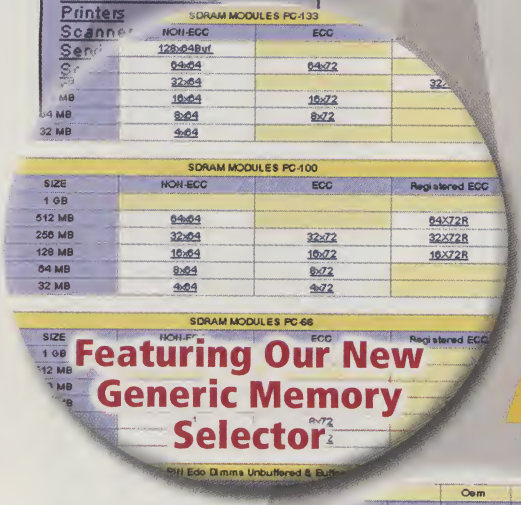
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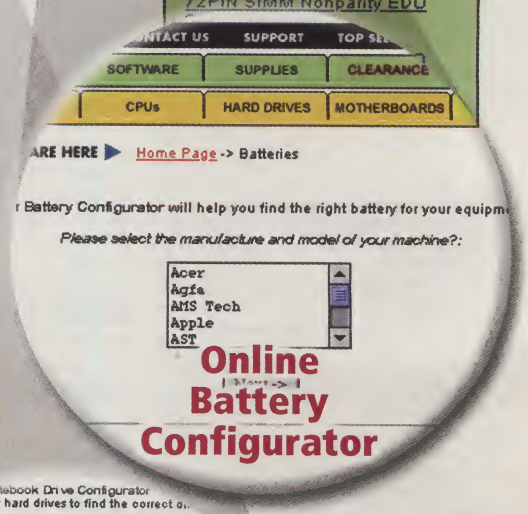
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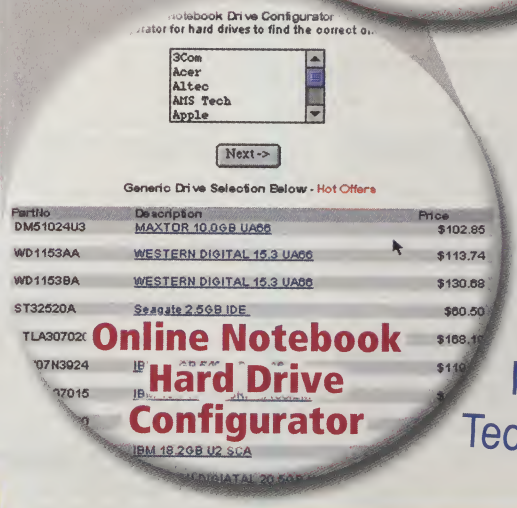
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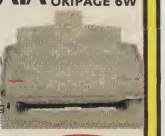
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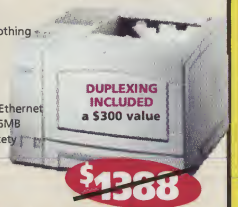
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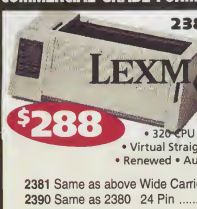
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FAX MULTIFUNCTION

BUYING ADVISOR

by Asa Somers

Taking the Rugged Route

A long-distance trucker looks for a tough notebook that can take a pounding without giving his wallet one.

EVER DRIVE YOUR CAR OVER your laptop? We actually know someone who has. Not surprisingly, the mishap resulted in some unsightly banding in the LCD, and the tire-tread imprints weren't too pretty, either.

Though no notebook can endure really extreme treatment with a smile, many are engineered to withstand trauma of a more gentle nature. That's the type of notebook that Michael Trelor, a self-described "reluctant truck driver," is looking for. "The trouble with laptops and trucks," Trelor says, "is the relentless vibration of the engine, and some of the less-than-perfect road conditions in the interstate system."

Hoping to find a fairly hardy system for no more than $1,800, Trelor needs at least a 400MHz processor, 64MB of RAM, and a 12.1-inch screen. "The main use for this laptop will be for e-mail," he says. "I'd also like to use it for routing and accessing state Web sites for road information."

In terms of power and features, Trelor's squarely in budget-laptop country. But can we find one in his price range that's tough enough to handle the stress of the highway?

We first looked at a handful of companies that specialize in "ruggedized" notebooks, most of which are designed to meet extremely tough field conditions and are usually armored in hardened steel and rubber. Take, for example, the **NotePAC** from Dolch Computer Systems *(www.dolch.com)*. It's rated to sustain a 3-foot drop, and is completely sealed against dust and moisture. Dolch says the NotePAC can operate well in high-vibration environments such as "rotary-winged aircraft and off-road vehicles." And with its 400MHz Pentium II processor, 64MB of RAM, and 13.3-inch screen, this notebook sounds like it's right up Trelor's alley. Unfortunately, it weighs 12.1 pounds and, worse still, costs a whopping $4,950.



Panasonic Toughbook 47

In fact, most of these specialty portables are priced well above Trelor's limit. The 7.5-pound **GoBook** from Itronix *(www.itronix.com)* features a 600MHz Celeron processor, 64MB of RAM, and a 12.1-inch screen, but it costs $4,500. The 12-pound **Enduro** from Melard Technologies *(www.melard.com)* is decked out with a 400MHz Celeron CPU, 256MB of RAM, and a 12.1-inch screen—and will run you $4,750.

CHALLENGE

USER PROFILE

Michael Trelor, a long-distance trucker who needs a notebook for e-mail and checking highway conditions online while he's on the road.

COMPUTING NEEDS

A rugged notebook that can withstand the rigors of the road, including relentless vibrations from the engine of a big rig and a daily bumpy ride on the U.S. interstate highway system. Other than that, the configuration is basic: a 400MHz processor, 64MB of RAM, and a 12.1-inch screen, for a price no higher than $1,800.

Because of their heft and high price, these systems are built for field professionals in vertical markets or the occasional corporate fleet that needs particularly abuse-resistant computers. And they're usually bought by people who spend company money; dropping five grand on a notebook hurts less when it's the company's cabbage.

One manufacturer, however, has been making a name for itself with specially designed ruggedized notebooks that target mainstream users. For several years, Panasonic's Toughbook line *(www.panasonic.com/toughbook)* has received accolades for being hardier than average—and sometimes as resilient as the more expensive military-grade systems listed above—while remaining affordable and attractive. Some of the models feature built-in handles and industrial-strength cases that give them a heavy-duty appearance, while others look more like standard notebooks with their ruggedized components and mountings hidden inside.

Of the Toughbook models, the **Toughbook 47** is the most affordable. It looks like a standard midrange notebook, but it features a magnesium-alloy case and a shock-mounted hard drive. It may not withstand quite the same torture as some of the systems mentioned earlier or even some of the more rugged Toughbook models, but it would surely survive the day-to-day abuse Trelor and his rig are going to dish out.

The Toughbook 47 can be configured with up to a 600MHz Pentium III processor, 20GB hard drive, and 14.1-inch TFT LCD panel. Prices on the Web vary widely, and availability is often questionable. We surfed up a number of dead ends before finding an available model selling for the advertised price. Amazingly, we found the unit decked out with a 450MHz Pentium III processor, 8GB hard drive, 13.3-inch LCD, and 24x CD-ROM drive for a jaw-dropping price of $1,287 from MicroX-Press *(www.microx-press.com)*. Immediately thinking misprint, we called the company and confirmed the price.

The same model (with lesser components) was advertised at other sites for around $1,700. We assume that by the time you read this, the deal on this system will be gone. However, you'll want to check MicroX-Press and other discount shops for similar bargains. They're out there.

SOLUTION

THE ADVISOR'S CHOICE

We found several notebooks engineered to meet the toughest of field conditions. All met Trelor's minimum requirements, and the 7.5-pound **GoBook** from Itronix was the most portable. But all cost at least $4,500, way over budget. Fortunately, we found a Panasonic **Toughbook 47**, which is slightly less sturdy than its ruggedized counterparts, for an amazing $1,287 at MicroX-Press *(www.microx-press.com)*. This unit is decked out with a 450MHz Pentium III, an 8GB hard drive, a 13.3-inch LCD, and a 24x CD-ROM. It's the rugged route without the high toll.

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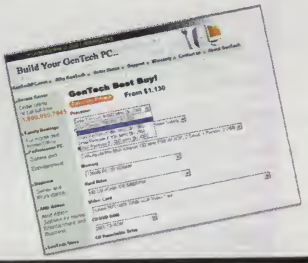
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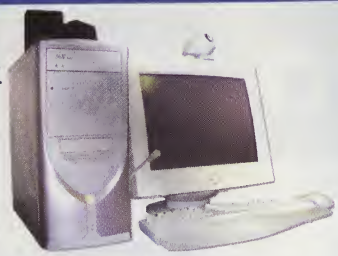
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- Internet Scroll Mouse PS2
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- Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition w/CD
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- Desktop Microphone
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- Add $169 for 17" .27 Monitor
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- Internet Scroll Mouse
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AMD Thunderbird 950 MHz $1,180
AMD Thunderbird 1.1 GHz $1,220
AMD Thunderbird 1.2 GHz $1,260

T-Bird 1 GHz $1,190

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- 40 GB Ultra ATA100 7200 rpm Hard Drive
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Yamaha 16X10X40 CD-RW Drive
- Microsoft IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Internet Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition w/CD
- 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- Lotus Smartsuite Millennium Edition
- Desktop Microphone
- Creative FPS 1000 Subwoofer Speaker
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- Internet Scroll Mouse
- WinTurbo 2000 Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition w/CD
- 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
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Intel Pentium III 1 GHz $1,090

P-III 800 MHz $910

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- PowerVR3 KYRO 64MB 3D Accelerator 4X AGP Video Card
- 56K PCI V.90 Fax/Data/Voice Modem
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value Sound Card
- 40 GB Ultra ATA100 Hard Drive
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- 17" (16" Viewable) .27 1280X1024 Monitor
- Internet Scroll Mouse
- WinTurbo 2000 Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition w/CD
- 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- Lotus Smartsuite Millennium Edition
- Desktop Microphone
- Altec Lancing ACS33 Subwoofer Speakers

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AMD Thunderbird 850 MHz $1,040
AMD Thunderbird 900 MHz $1,050
AMD Thunderbird 950 MHz $1,070
AMD Thunderbird 1.1 GHz $1,100
AMD Thunderbird 1.2 GHz $1,150

T-Bird 1 GHz $1,080

GT Thunder XL

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- 256 MB PC133 SDRAM
- nVidia GeForce 2 PRO 64MB DDR 3D Graphics Accelerator
- 56K PCI V.90 Fax/Data/Voice Modem
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live X-Gamer 5.1 Sound Card
- 40 GB Ultra ATA100 7200 rpm Hard Drive
- 16X DVD-ROM Drive
- Yamaha 16X10X40 CD-RW Drive
- Internet Scroll Mouse
- WinTurbo 2000 Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition w/CD
- 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- Lotus Smartsuite Millennium Edition
- Desktop Microphone
- Creative FPS 1000 Subwoofer Speaker
- 19" (18" Viewable) .26 1600X1280 Monitor

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AMD Thunderbird 900 MHz $1,730
AMD Thunderbird 950 MHz $1,750
AMD Thunderbird 1.1 GHz $1,780
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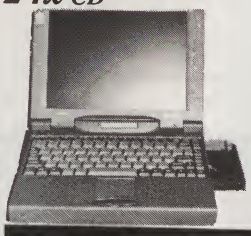
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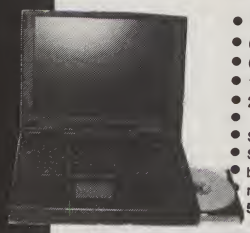
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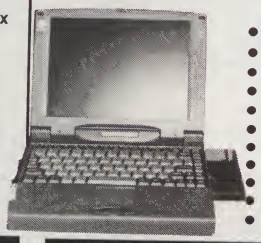
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- battery & adapter
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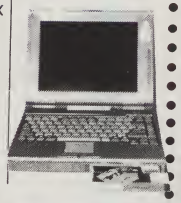
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- 64 meg ram
- 4.3 gig hdd
- 12.1" Active Color
- 4x dvd 24x cd rom,
- 1.44 floppy
- Sound Touchpad,pcmcia
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 56 fax modem

Celeron 366 MMX 64/4.8 Active 24x

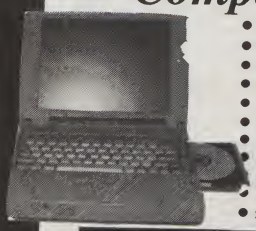
IBM $699



- Celeron 366processor w/MMX
- 64 meg ram
- 4.8 Gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- 24x cd ,
- 1.44 floppy
- Sound,Accupointer & pcmcia
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 56k fax

Pentium 233 64/2.0 Gig Active 20x CD

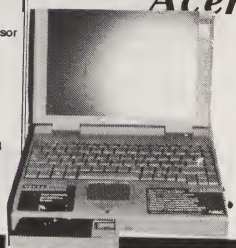
Compaq $579



- Pentium 233 MMX processor
- 64 meg ram
- 2.0 Gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- sound card
- 20x cd rom, 1.44 floppy
- Accupointer & pcmcia slot #3
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 33.6k fax modem

Pentium 166 processor 32/1.3 gig Active 10x

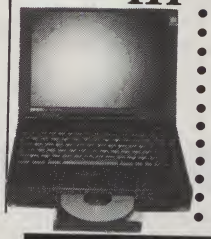
Acer $449



- Pentium 166 processor
- 32 meg ram
- 1.3 gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- sound card
- 10x cd rom, 1.44 floppy
- Accupointer & pcmcia slot
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 33.6k fax

Pentium 166 processor 32/3.0 gig Active 10x

HP $499



- Pentium 166 processor
- 32 meg ram
- 3.0 gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- 10x cd rom
- 16 bit sound
- 1.44 3 1/2 Floppy
- accupointer & pcmcia slot #3
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 33.6k fax

Pentium 133 processor 48/2.1 Active 10x

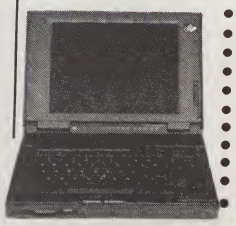
IBM $449



- Pentium 133 MMX
- 48 meg ram
- 2.1 Gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- 8x CD Rom
- 16 bit sound,
- 1.44 3 1/2 Floppy
- Accupointer, pcmcia
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- Battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 28.8k fax modem

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- 24 meg ram
- 1.0 gig HDD
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- 16 bit sound
- 1.44 3 1/2 Floppy
- pcmcia
- Accupointer
- Refurbished
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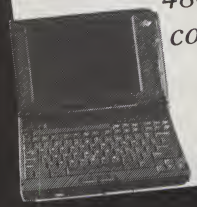
Pentim 120 24/810 Color

IBM $299



- Pentium 120 processor
- 24 meg ram
- 810 meg HDD
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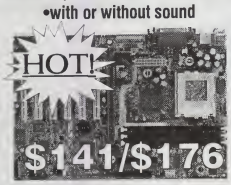
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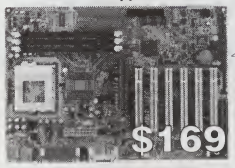
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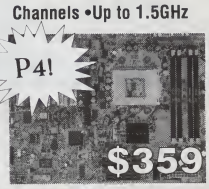
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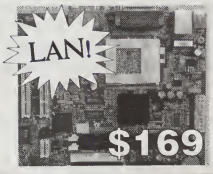
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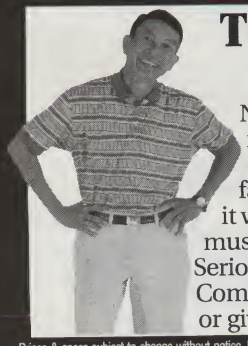
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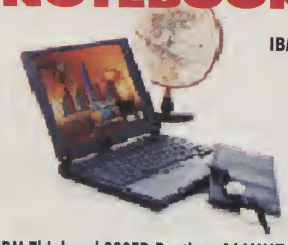
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PROSIGNIA VS.....35.....136
PROLIANT 1500, 5/100, 5/120, 5/75,
1500R 5/100, 5/120, 5/75.....36.....40.....66.....70..... 190
PROSIGNIA 5/60, 5/90.....80.....70.....180
PROLIANT 1500 5/133, 5/166, 1500R 5/133, 5/166.....40.....66.....70.....190
PROLIANT 800 6/180, 6/200,850R.....42.....81.....149
PROLIANT 2500.....80.....85.....151
PROLIANT 1000, 486DX2/66.....20.....33.....45.....91
PROLIANT 5000 FAMILY.....198
PROLINIA DESKTOP 450.....11.....19.....48.....96
ENHANCED PROLINEA 4/33S, 4/50, 4/66, 4/100.....11.....19.....48.....96
PROLINEA 5/75, 5/90, 5/100, 4/100, 5100E, 5120E, 5133, 575E, 6150E, 6180E, 5120MX, 575MX, 590MX.....11.....19.....48.....96
PROLINEA 575(840), 5100(840,1200), 5120(1200), 5133, 5150, 5166(1200,2000), 5133, 5150, 5166(2000/ML).....22.....38.....88.....164
PROLINIA 4/25S, 4/33, 4/33S, 4/50, 4/66.....20.....33
CDS, NET 1/25S, NET1/25TR, NET 1/25E, NET 1/33S.....20.....33
PRESARIO 425, 433, DESKPRO XE 4100, 4/33S, 450, 466.....20.....33
PRESARIO CDS 992, 982, 972, CDTV 978.....19.....48.....96
PRESARIO 510, 520, 524, 526, 528.....11.....19.....48.....96
PRESARIO 633, 650, 660, CDS 625.....11.....19.....48.....96
PRESARIO 800C, SERIES 866, 800F, SERIES 833CDS, 850, 866, 800S, SERIES 833CDS, 850, 866, PROLINEA MT FAMILY.....11.....19.....48.....96
PRESARIO 5536, 5528, 5526.....11.....19.....48.....96
PRESARIO 7212, 7222, 7232, 7234, 7240, 7220.....22.....38.....88.....174
PRESARIO 9232, 9234, 9240, 9250, 9642, 9660.....22.....38.....88.....174
PRESARIO 4764, 4770.....27.....39.....63
PRESARIO 6704, 6708, ...22.....39.....88.....174
PROFESSIONAL WORKSTATION 5000/ 6000.....85.....151..278
SYSTEM PRO /XL, 486/50, PROSIGNIA 5/60, 5/90.....80.....132.....276

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750/C/CE/CS/P, 755C/CS/CD/CE/CSE/CV/CDV.42.....59....109
THINKPAD 760LD, 760L, 760CD,760C.....41.....48.....89
THINKPAD 600, 770E/ED/X, I SERIES.....31.....48.....97
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CONCERTO 4/33, 4/25.....24.....49
LTE LITE 4/33, 4/25E, 4/25C, 4/25.....44.....59
LTE LITE 5000, 5200, 5250, 5280, 5300, 5400.....44.....59.....79.....144
ARMADA 1500 SERIES, 7000 SERIES.....34.....64.....119
ARMADA 4100, 4200 SERIES.....36.....46.....84.....119
ARMADA 1100, 1120, 1120T, 1125.....31.....49.....109...147
ARMADA 1700, 6500, 7400, 7800, PROSIGNIA 100, 6000 SERIES.62.....99
ARMADA 1130T, 1130.....26.....39.....74.....147
PRESARIO 1000 SERIES.....28.....49.....109
PRESARIO 1200, 1600, 1800 SERIES.....31.....48.....97

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ASCENTIA P30, P50, P70, P80.....56.....99
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T2100 SERIES.....38.....44..69(24MB)
PROTEGE 300, 310, 320, 360, 650CT, 660CDT.....46.....85.....159 ..295
PROTEGE 7000, 7010, 7020 SERIES.....45.....74 ...127
T4400 SERIES, 6400, 6600 SERIES.....37.....81 ...129
SATELITE PRO 100/2200/400 SERIES.....39.....53.....76
SATELITE PRO 300 SERIES, 440, 445, 460,470 ,480.....76.....139 ..295
SATELITE 4000 SERIES, 8000 SERIES.....45.....89.....148
TECRA 750, 780 SERIES.....74.....147
TECRA 700CDT, T700CT.....55.....75
TECRA 500CDS/CDT, 510CDS/CDT.....46..89..119(48MB)..295
TECRA 710, 720, 730, 740.....39.....53.....89.....179.....329
LIBERETTO 50, 60, 70.....55.....69
LIBERETTO 100CT, 110CT, 110CT-NT, PROTEGE 3000 SERIES ..94

DELL — 4MB .. .8MB ..16MB ..32MB..64MB

LATITUDE 475MC, 450MC, 450MCX ..32...48.....76
LATITUDE XPI CD M133ST, M166ST.....28.....49 ...89
LATITUDE LX410D, 410DT, 475.....48.....67
LATITUDE XP, XPI, SERIES.....28.....58
LATTITUED LM SERIES.....35.....54 ...97
LATTITUDE CP SERIES.....38 ...85 ...119
LATTITUDE CP, CPI SERIES.....59 ...89 ...119

CTX — 8MB ..16MB ..32MB ..64MB

EZ BOOK 700 SERIES, CTX X 95SNS....28...38.....74 ..131
EZ BOOK 700E SERIES, 800 SERIES .....48.....64 ..119

GATEWAY — 8MB ...16MB ..32MB ...64MB

COLORBOOK 486SX, 486DX2, 486DX4.....72
HANDBOOK 486 SUBNOTEBOOK.....58
LIBERTY DX2/50, DX4/100 .....29.....59
SOLO S90, S120, V75, V90 NOTEBOOK ...34.....39
GATEWAY SOLO 2100, 2200 .....43.....69 ..105
GATEWAY SOLO 2300, 2500 SERIES.....31 ...38
SOLO 3100 XL/LS//SE 5150 XL/LS/XE.....31 ...38
SOLO 9100 PENTIUM II, PENTIUM MMX SERIES.....31 ...38
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We've compiled a complete listing of all the products advertised in this issue of *Computer Shopper*.

The page numbers refer to advertisers who carry each type or brand of product.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS.....223
- **Desktops**
  Pentium 4, Pentium III, AMD Duron, AMD Athlon, Celeron, Bare Bones, Industrial PCs, Multi-processor, Servers, Terminals/Workstations
- **PDAs/Palmtops/HPCs**
- **Portables**
  Pentium III/II, Pentium, AMD K6, Celeron, 486, Transmeta Crusoe
- **Macintoshes**

PERIPHERALS.....224
- **Digital Cameras/Camcorders**
- **Input Devices**
  Graphics Tablets, Keyboards/Keypads, Mice,Trackballs
- **Modems**
  External Fax, Internal Fax, PC Card, Voice/Data, Wireless
- **Monitors**
  19" & Larger, 17", 15" & Smaller, LCD Flat Panel
- **Office Equipment**
  Copy/Fax Machines, Multifunction Peripherals, Point-of-Sale, Misc. Office Equipment
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- **Printers**
  Dot Matrix, Inkjet, Laser (Color), Laser (Monochrome), Portable, Thermal Wax, Misc. Printers
- **Scanners**
  Bar-Code, Desktop, Handheld
- **Speakers/Headphones**
- **Storage Devices**
  CD-ROM Drives, CD Recordable/Rewritable Drives, Duplication Systems, DVD-ROM Drives, Floppy Disk Drives, LS-120, Hard Drives, Optical Storage, RAID Storage, Removable Storage, Tape Drives
- **Video Conferencing**

COMPONENTS.....226
- **General Components**
  Cables/Connectors, Chassis/Cases, CPU Cooling Fans, CPU Upgrades, CPUs, Memory Upgrades
- **Add-In Cards**
  Controller Cards, Graphics/Accelerator Cards, Memory Cards, Sound Cards, Video Controllers & Equipment
- **Consumer Electronics** • **Motherboards**
- **PC Card Equipment** • **Misc. Components**

ACCESSORIES.....226
- **Electrical Accessories**
  Batteries, Power Strips/Surge Suppressors, Switch Boxes, Uninterruptible Power Supplies
- **Disk Accessories** • **Notebook Accessories**
  Carrying Cases, Notebook/Laptop Hard Drives, Portable CD-ROM Drives, Portable CD-Recordable Drives, Portable DVD-ROM Drives, Misc. Notebook Accessories
- **Printer Supplies**
  Printer Expansion Memory, Toner/Inkjet Cartridges, Misc. Printer Supplies
- **Storage Media** • **Misc. Accessories**

NETWORKING/COMM. EQUIP.....227

SOFTWARE & CONTENT.....227
- **Applications Software**
  Accounting/Finance/Tax/Investment, Communications, Desktop Publishing, Education/Training, Fonts, Graphics, Integrated, Internet, Languages/Tools, Multimedia, Networking, PIMs, Point-of-Sale, Project Management, Security, Utilities
- **Operating Systems/GUIs** • **Books/Catalogs/Videos**

SERVICES.....227
- **Data Conversion/Disk Duplication**
- **Online Auctions** • **Training/Business**
- **Misc. Services**

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

• Desktops

Pentium 4

ABS Computer Technologies • 7
Adamant Computers • 205
Compaq Consumer Direct • COV2-COV4
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 163
Gateway 2000 • 41
Gentech • 219
HP • 98
iBUYPOWER • 79
Micro Pro • 68, 213
United Micro • 91

Pentium III

ABS Computer Technologies • 7
Adamant Computers • 205
Atlas Micro • 48
Caliber Computer Corp • 200
Compaq Computer Corp • 21, 34, 86
Compaq Consumer Direct • COV2-COV4, 1
Compaq Direct Plus • 18
Compaq Factory Outlet • 193
Cyber Power • 171
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 52, 163, 180, 246
Dell Factory Outlet • 211
Gateway 2000 • 39, 41
Gentech • 219
Hewlett-Packard • 21, 34, 151
HP • 98, 103
IBM Corporation • 8, 10, 34, 75, 86
iBUYPOWER • 79
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Micro Pro • 68, 213
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 228
Thortek • 202
United Micro • 91

AMD Duron

Adamant Computers • 64, 205
Alienware • 62
Atlas Micro • 48, 61
Compaq Computer Corp • 34
Cyber Power • 65, 171
Gentech • 219
iBUYPOWER • 67, 79
Micro Pro • 68, 213
MidWest Micro • 60
Nutrend • 63
Sony Corp of America • 34
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 228
United Micro • 91

AMD Athlon

Adamant Computers • 64, 205
Alienware • 62
AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) • 58
Atlas Micro • 48, 61
Cyber Power • 65, 171
Gentech • 219
iBUYPOWER • 67, 79
Micro Pro • 68, 213
MidWest Micro • 60
Nutrend • 63
Tiny Computers • 15, 66
United Micro • 91

Celeron

ABS Computer Technologies • 7
Adamant Computers • 205
Atlas Micro • 48
Compaq Computer Corp • 34
Compaq Consumer Direct • COV2-COV4
Compaq Direct Plus • 18
Cyber Power • 171
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 52, 163
Gentech • 219
Hewlett-Packard • 34, 86
HP • 98, 105
IBM Corporation • 10
iBUYPOWER • 79
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Micro Pro • 68, 213

Bare Bones

Adamant Computers • 64, 205
Case Depot • 178
Ever Han Corp • 206
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Jinco.com • 206
Motherboard Express • 221
Team Force • 178
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 228
United Micro • 91

Industrial PCs

Case Depot • 178
Ever Han Corp • 206
Jinco.com • 206
Team Force • 178

Multiprocessor

Compaq Direct Plus • 18
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 52, 180
IBM Corporation • 75
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Micro Pro • 68, 213

Servers

Adamant Computers • 205
Caliber Computer Corp • 200
Compaq Computer Corp • 21, 34
Compaq Direct Plus • 18
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 52, 180
Hewlett-Packard • 34
HP • 103
IBM Corporation • 21, 34, 75
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Micro Pro • 68, 213
Quantum Corp • 196, 230

Terminals/ Workstations

Adamant Computers • 205
Case Depot • 178
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 52
Ever Han Corp • 206
iBUYPOWER • 79
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Jinco.com • 206
Team Force • 178

• PDAs/Palmtops/ HPCs

3Com Corp/US Robotics • 97
Compaq Computer Corp • 151, 168
Handspring • 21, 34, 151
Hewlett-Packard • 168
iBUYPOWER • 79
NEC Computer Systems • 168
Palm • 96, 151, 168
Sony Corp of America • 21, 151, 168

• Portables

Pentium III

Acer America Corp • 69, 137, 168
Compaq Computer Corp • 96, 97, 151, 168, 174
Compaq Consumer Direct • COV2-COV4, 1
Compaq Direct Plus • 18
Compaq Factory Outlet • 193
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 26, 52, 83, 154, 163
Dell Factory Outlet • 211
Ever Han Corp • 206
Fujitsu • 151, 168
Fujitsu PC Corp • 55
Gateway 2000 • 41
Hewlett-Packard • 151, 168, 174
HP • 101
IBM Corporation • 10, 75, 151, 168, 174
Jinco.com • 206
Prostar Computer • 42, 89
Sager • 29, 46
Sony Corp of America • 34, 96, 151, 168, 174
Tiny Computers • 15
Toshiba America • 96, 151, 168, 174
WinBook Computer Corp • 85

Pentium II

Compaq Computer Corp • 220
Ever Han Corp • 206

The *Computer Shopper* Product Index lists the products, services, and advertisements appearing in the current issue (except those in the Showcase section). The staff has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the index. However, *Computer Shopper* does not warrant the accuracy of information and is not responsible for any errors appearing in the Product Index. Note that advertisements or changes to ads received after the Material Due deadline may not be included in the Product Index.

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Portables *(continued)*

Jinco.com • 206

Pentium
Acer America Corp • 220
Compaq Computer Corp • 220, 222
Ever Han Corp • 206
Hewlett-Packard • 220
IBM Corporation • 220, 222
Jinco.com • 206

AMD K6
Compaq Computer Corp • 168, 174, 220
Hewlett-Packard • 168, 174
Sony Corp of America • 21, 96, 97, 168, 174
Toshiba America • 168

Celeron
Acer America Corp • 168
Compaq Computer Corp • 34, 96, 151, 168, 174
Compaq Consumer Direct • COV2-COV4
Dell Computer Corp • COV5-COV8, 26, 52, 154, 163
Fujitsu • 151, 168
Gateway 2000 • 41
Hewlett-Packard • 151, 168, 174
IBM Corporation • 10, 34, 75, 168, 174, 220
Prostar Computer • 42
Sager • 29
Toshiba America • 34, 96, 97, 113, 151, 168, 174
WinBook Computer Corp • 85

486
True Data Products • 220

Transmeta Crusoe
Sony Corp of America • 151, 168, 174

• Macintoshes

Apple Computer • 86, 151

PERIPHERALS

• Digital Cameras/ Camcorders

Canon Computer Systems • 73 96, 97, 151, 168, 174, 229
Casio • 229
Dolphin • 202
Eastman Kodak Co • 97, 168, 174, 213, 229
Epson • 96, 97, 196
Fuji • 97, 168, 174, 229
Hewlett-Packard • 196
Minolta Corp • 168
Nikon • 34, 73, 96, 97, 168, 174, 175, 229
Olympus Image Systems • 96, 97, 168, 174, 229
Panasonic • 96, 168
Ricoh Corp • 175
Sony Corp of America • 73, 96, 151, 168, 174, 196, 229
Toshiba America • 96, 97, 174
Umax Technologies • 21

• Input Devices

Graphics Tablets
Wacom Technology • 96

Keyboards/Keypads
Antec • 202
Apple Computer • 222
Belkin Components • 202
Cherry Electrical Products • 107
Chicony America • 202
Focus Electronic Corp • 213
Genovation • 107
Key Tronic Corp • 202
Logic Controls • 107
Micro Innovations • 202
Micro Pro • 213
Microsoft Corp • 175, 202, 207, 213
Mitsumi Electronics Corp • 175, 207
Thortek • 202
Ultima Group USA • 202

Mice
Apple Computer • 222
Logitech • 175, 213
Microsoft Corp • 207, 213
Mitsumi Electronics Corp • 175, 207
Thortek • 202

Trackballs
Logitech • 213

• Modems

External Fax
3Com Corp/US Robotics • 175, 202, 213
Creative Labs • 202
Intel Corp • 207
Lucent Technologies • 207
Phoebe • 213
Rockwell • 207
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207

Internal Fax
3Com Corp/US Robotics • 168, 175, 176, 202, 213, 244
Acer Peripherals • 175
Creative Labs • 176, 202, 244
Motorola • 168
Phoebe • 213
Xircom • 168

PC Card
3Com Corp/US Robotics • 168
Motorola • 168
Phoebe • 213
Xircom • 168

Voice/Data
3Com Corp/US Robotics • 175, 176, 213, 244
Acer Peripherals • 175
Creative Labs • 176, 202, 244
Phoebe • 213
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207

Wireless
3Com Corp/US Robotics • 168

Monitors

19" & Larger
Hitachi • 202, 204
IBM Corporation • 202
KDS USA • 175, 202, 207
Mag Innovision • 202, 204
Micro Pro • 213
Mitsubishi Electronics America • 204
NEC Technologies • 202, 204
Nokia Mobira • 196
Optiquest • 196
Relisys • 176, 207, 244
Samsung Electronics America • 202
Sony Corp of America • 204
Thortek • 202
ViewSonic • 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 207, 244

17"
Acer Peripherals • 175
AOC International Ltd • 202
Hitachi • 202, 204
KDS USA • 175, 207
Mag Innovision • 175, 204
MGC (Max Group Corp) • 207
Micro Pro • 213
Mitsubishi Electronics America • 204
NEC Technologies • 202, 204
Princeton • 202
Relisys • 176, 207, 244
Samsung Electronics America • 202
Sony Corp of America • 204
Thortek • 202
ViewSonic • 21, 34, 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 207, 244

15" & Smaller
Acer Peripherals • 175
MGC (Max Group Corp) • 207
Micro Pro • 213

PRODUCT INDEX

Nurol Corp • 190
Princeton • 202
Proview Technology • 207
Relisys • 176, 244
ViewSonic • 175, 176, 244

LCD Flat Panel
Ever Han Corp • 206
IBM Corporation • 202
Jinco.com • 206
Nurol Corp • 190
Princeton • 202
Relisys • 207
ViewSonic • 176, 196, 244

• Office Equipment

Copy/Fax Machines
Brother International Corp • 217
Canon Computer Systems • 217
Hewlett-Packard • 217
Okidata Corp • 217
PanaFax • 217
Panasonic • 217
Ricoh Corp • 217
Sharp Electronics Corp • 217

Multifunction Peripherals
Brother International Corp • 217
Canon Computer Systems • 217
Epson • 217
Hewlett-Packard • 202, 217
Xerox Corp • 217

Point-of-Sale
American Microsystems • 107, 191
APG Cash Drawer • 107
Axiohm Cognitive Solutions • 190
Citizen America Corp • 190
Cougar Mountain Software • 3
Crichlow Data Sciences • 190
Eltron International • 190
Epson • 190
IBM Corporation • 190
IBS • 190
Indiana Cash Drawer Co • 107, 190
Ithaca Peripherals • 190
Logic Controls • 107
Mag-Tek • 107
Metrologic Instruments • 190
MMF Cash Drawer Co • 107, 190
NJCR Technologies • 107
Nurol Corp • 190
P.O.S. International • 189
PC America • 107
Percon • 190
Point of Sale Solutions • 190
PSC • 190
Samsung Electronics America • 190
Star Micronics America • 190
Symbol Technologies • 190
Unitech Systems • 107
Zebra Technologies • 190

Misc. Office Equipment
Nurol Corp • 190

• Plotters

Hewlett-Packard • 217

• Presentation Equipment

Adtech • 192
AV Marketplace • 192
Canon Computer Systems • 151
Epson • 192
InFocus • 21, 192
Panasonic • 135, 192
PLUS Corp • 192
Sony Corp of America • 73
Toshiba America • 192

• Printers

Dot Matrix
Epson • 217
Lexmark International • 217
Okidata Corp • 217
Panasonic • 217

Dye Sublimation
Olympus Image Systems • 229

Inkjet
APOLLO Consumer Products • 127, 129
Brother International Corp • 168, 217
Canon Computer Systems • 97, 168, 202, 217
Citizen America Corp • 168
Epson • 34, 97, 127, 129, 168, 175, 196, 202, 217, 229
Hewlett-Packard • 34, 127, 129, 168, 202, 217
Lexmark International • 202, 217
Thortek • 202

Laser (Color)
Brother International Corp • 217
Hewlett-Packard • 217
Lexmark International • 217
Minolta Corp • 217
NEC Technologies • 217
Okidata Corp • 217
Panasonic • 217
QMS • 217
Tektronix • 217
Xerox Corp • 217

Laser (Monochrome)
Brother International Corp • 217
Epson • 217
Hewlett-Packard • 21, 175, 202, 217
IBM Corporation • 217
Lexmark International • 217
Minolta Corp • 217
NEC Technologies • 217
Okidata Corp • 217
Panasonic • 217
Ricoh Corp • 217
Xerox Corp • 217

Portable
Brother International Corp • 217
Canon Computer Systems • 168, 217
Citizen America Corp • 168

Thermal Wax
Tektronix • 217

Misc. Printers
Axiohm Cognitive Solutions • 190
Citizen America Corp • 107, 190
Cognitive Solutions • 107
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Eltron International • 190
Epson • 107, 190, 229
Ithaca Peripherals • 107, 190
Mega Haus • 196
Nurol Corp • 190
Olympus Image Systems • 229
PC America • 107
Samsung Electronics America • 190
Star Micronics America • 107, 190
Zebra Technologies • 190

• Scanners

Bar-Code
American Microsystems • 191
Crichlow Data Sciences • 190
Metrologic Instruments • 107, 190
NJCR Technologies • 107
Nurol Corp • 190
P.O.S. International • 189
PC America • 107
Percon • 107
Point of Sale Solutions • 190
PSC • 107, 190
Symbol Technologies • 107, 190
Unitech Systems • 190

Desktop
Canon Computer Systems • 202, 229
Epson • 97, 202
Minolta Corp • 229
Nikon • 229
Thortek • 202
Umax Technologies • 34, 202

Handheld
American Microsystems • 191
Nurol Corp • 190
PC America • 107
Point of Sale Solutions • 190
WizCom Technologies • 96

• Speakers/Headphones

Altec Lansing Corp • 202
Computer Gate Int'l • 127, 129
Creative Labs • 202
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
IBM Corporation • 202
Kinyo Co • 207
Klipsch • 202
Labtec Enterprises • 196, 230
Mega Haus • 196
MIDI Land • 127, 129
Sonigistix • 202
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207
Thortek • 202

• Storage Devices

CD-ROM Drives
Acer Peripherals • 175, 196, 202, 230
Afreey • 172
AOpen • 172
ASUS Computer International • 172, 207
Creative Labs • 175, 196, 230
Delta Products Corp • 127, 129, 172, 202
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
Jinco.com • 206
Kenwood • 196, 202, 230
Lite-On • 202
Mega Haus • 196
Micro Pro • 213
MicroSolutions • 230
Mitsumi Electronics Corp • 175, 176, 196, 202, 207, 230, 244
NEC Technologies • 172, 196, 230
Pioneer New Media Technologies • 230
Plextor • 175, 196, 202, 230
Ricoh Corp • 202
Sony Corp of America • 176, 244
TEAC America • 196, 230
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207
Thortek • 202
Toshiba America • 175, 176, 196, 202, 230, 244
USDrives • 202

CD-Recordable/ Rewritable Drives
Acer Peripherals • 175, 196, 202, 230
AOpen • 172
CenDyne • 230, 236
Creative Labs • 175, 196, 202, 230
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
Hewlett-Packard • 34, 151, 172, 175, 196, 202, 204, 213, 230, 236
Iomega Corp • 202
Jinco.com • 206
LG Electronics USA • 172
Lite-On • 202
Mega Haus • 196
MicroSolutions • 230
Mitsumi Electronics Corp • 176, 244
Pacific Digital Products • 202
Panasonic • 172
Plextor • 172, 175, 196, 202, 204, 213, 230, 236
QPS • 202
Ricoh Corp • 196, 202, 230, 236
Samsung Electronics America • 207
Sony Corp of America • 172, 175, 176, 196, 202, 230, 236, 244
TEAC America • 175, 196, 202, 204, 230
TeraOptix • 73
Thortek • 202
Toshiba America • 202, 230
Yamaha • 172, 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 207, 230, 236, 244

Duplication Systems
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Logicube • 192
Mega Haus • 196
Rimage Corporation • 230

DVD-ROM Drives
Acer Peripherals • 230
Addonics (Fora) • 202
Afreey • 172, 207
AGI • 172
Amacom Technologies • 202
AOpen • 172
CenDyne • 230
Creative Labs • 172, 175, 196, 202, 230
Delta Products Corp • 172
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
Hitachi • 230
Jinco.com • 206
Mega Haus • 196
Micro Pro • 213
Pioneer New Media Technologies • 172, 196, 202, 230
QPS • 202
Ricoh Corp • 202, 230
Samsung Electronics America • 207
Thortek • 202
Toshiba America • 176, 196, 202, 230, 244

Floppy Disk Drives
Apple Computer • 222
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Mitsumi Electronics Corp • 172,

PRODUCT INDEX

Storage Devices *(continued)*

175, 202, 207, 213
Samsung Electronics America • 172
Sony Corp of America • 175, 202
TEAC America • 172, 175, 178, 196, 202, 213

LS-120
Imation • 196, 230
Thortek • 202

Hard Drives
Apple Computer • 222
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
Fujitsu • 172, 196, 206, 230
Hitachi • 230
IBM Corporation • 127, 129, 172, 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 206, 207, 213, 230, 237, 244
Jinco.com • 206
Maxtor Corp • 172, 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 206, 207, 213, 230, 244
Mega Haus • 196
MicroSolutions • 196, 230
Quantum Corp • 172, 196, 202, 204, 230
Samsung Electronics America • 172, 207
Seagate Technology • 172, 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 206, 207, 213, 230, 244
Thortek • 202
Western Digital Corp • 172, 175, 176, 196, 204, 206, 207, 230, 237, 244

Optical Storage
Maxoptix Corp • 230
Sony Corp of America • 196, 230

RAID Storage
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Mega Haus • 196

Removable Storage
Castlewood Systems • 196, 202, 230
Computer Gate Int'l • 127, 129
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230, 236
Iomega Corp • 127, 129, 168, 176, 196, 202, 204, 207, 213, 230, 244
Mega Haus • 196
NEC Technologies • 127, 129
OnStream • 202
Panasonic • 127, 129
Thortek • 202

Tape Drives
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Exabyte Corp • 196, 230
Hewlett-Packard • 175, 196, 230
Hewlett-Packard (Colorado) • 204
OnStream • 175
Quantum Corp • 196, 204, 230
Seagate Technology • 175, 196, 204, 213, 230
Sony Corp of America • 196, 204, 230

• Video Conferencing

Creative Labs • 213
Phoebe • 213

COMPONENTS

• General Components

Cables/Connectors
Belkin Components • 202
Case Depot • 178
Computer Gate Int'l • 172
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Mega Haus • 196
Team Force • 178
Thortek • 202

Chassis/Cases
Antec • 202
Case Depot • 178
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Enlight Corp • 207, 213
Fong Kai Industrial • 202
In Win Development • 213
Jinco.com • 206
Micro Pro • 213
Super Micro • 213
Team Force • 178
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207, 228
Thortek • 202

CPU Cooling Fans
Case Depot • 178
Computer Gate Int'l • 172
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
Jinco.com • 206
Mega Haus • 196
Team Force • 178
Thortek • 202

CPU Upgrades
Kingston Technology Corp • 25

CPUs
AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) • 172, 175, 176, 202, 204, 206, 207, 213, 216, 237, 244
Cyrix • 204
Intel Corp • 172, 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 206, 207, 213, 216, 237, 244
Jinco.com • 206

Memory Upgrades
Apple Computer • 222
CitiTronics.com • 190
Compaq Computer Corp • 222
Corsair Microsystems • 176, 244
Crucial Technology (div of Micron) • 4, 224
Ever Han Corp • 206
IBM Corporation • 222
Interpro Microsystems • 204
Jinco.com • 206
Kahlon • 222
Memory 4 Less • 216
Memory Man • 237
Micro Pro • 213
PC Progress • 244
Simple Technology • 21
Spartan Technologies • 176
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207

• Add-In Cards

Controller Cards
Adaptec • 175, 176, 230, 244
Arco Computer Products • 230
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Orange Micro • 202
Promise Technology • 176, 202, 230, 244
Tekram • 230
Thortek • 202

Graphics/ Accelerator Cards
3dfx Interactive (STB Systems) • 175, 176, 196, 204, 207, 244
3Dlabs • 202, 204
ASUS Computer International • 176, 202, 204, 207, 244
ATI Technologies • 175, 176, 196, 202, 204, 207, 213, 244
Creative Labs • 175, 202
Daytona • 244
Diamond Multimedia Systems • 175, 196, 204, 207
ELSA • 202, 204
Ever Han Corp • 206
Guillemot • 175, 213
Jinco.com • 206
Matrox Electronic Systems Ltd • 175, 176, 202, 204, 207, 244
Pine Technology • 202
Sigma Designs • 230
SIS • 213
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207
Trident Microsystems • 207
VisionTek • 175

Memory Cards
Acer America Corp • 237
AST Research • 222
CitiTronics.com • 190
Compaq Computer Corp • 222, 237
CTX International • 222
Dell Computer Corp • 222, 237
Gateway 2000 • 222
Hewlett-Packard • 222
IBM Corporation • 222, 237
Kahlon • 222
Marine Park Computers • 168
Memory 4 Less • 216
Memory Man • 237
NEC Computer Systems • 237
SanDisk Corp • 175
Sharp Electronics Corp • 237
Simple Technology • 21
Toshiba America • 222, 237

Sound Cards
Creative Labs • 175, 176, 196, 202, 207, 213, 230, 244
Diamond Multimedia Systems • 175, 202, 207
Ever Han Corp • 206
Jinco.com • 206
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207
Thortek • 202
Turtle Beach Systems • 202
Yamaha • 207

Video Controllers & Equipment
ADS Technologies • 96
ATI Technologies • 175, 176, 202, 204, 207, 213, 244
Dazzle Multimedia • 96
Diamond Multimedia Systems • 204
Mega Haus • 196
Pinnacle Systems • 196
Sigma Designs • 196, 230
Sony Corp of America • 196
Wavelink Media • 230

• Consumer Electronics

Garmin International • 73
JVC Information Products • 73
Panasonic • 73
Sony Corp of America • 73
TeraOptix • 73

• Motherboards

ABIT Computer Corp • 64, 127, 129, 172, 175, 176, 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 213, 221, 244
Adamant Computers • 64
AOpen • 172
Apple Computer • 222
ASUS Computer International • 64, 172, 175, 176, 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 213, 221, 244
Biostar • 207
Chaintech • 172
Computer Gate Int'l • 127, 129, 172
DFI • 205
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
ECS • 213
Ever Han Corp • 206
FIC (First Int'l Computer) • 172, 175, 176, 202, 207, 213, 244
Giga-Byte • 64, 172, 175, 176, 202, 204, 205, 213, 221, 244
Intel Corp • 176, 202, 204, 207, 213, 221, 244
Iwill (Quicktech) • 64, 204
Jinco.com • 206
Mega Haus • 196
Motherboard Express • 221
MSI • 175, 176, 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 244
Shuttle Computer Group • 221
Super Micro • 202, 204, 206, 213, 221
Thortek • 202
Tyan Computer Corp • 175, 202, 204, 206, 213, 221

• PC Card Equipment

3Com Corp/US Robotics • 168
Addonics (Fora) • 168, 202
Amacom Technologies • 202
CitiTronics.com • 190
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
IBM Corporation • 202
Kahlon • 222
Marine Park Computers • 168
Mega Haus • 196
Thortek • 202
Xircom • 168

• Misc. Components

American Microsystems • 191
Apple Computer • 222
Case Depot • 178
Computer Gate Int'l • 172
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
IBM Corporation • 222
Jinco.com • 206
Kahlon • 222
Mega Haus • 196
Motherboard Express • 221
Team Force • 178
Thortek • 202

ACCESSORIES

• Electrical Accessories

Batteries
Acer America Corp • 237
Compaq Computer Corp • 222, 237
Dell Computer Corp • 237
IBM Corporation • 222, 237

PRODUCT INDEX

Kahlon • 222
Marine Park Computers • 168
Memory 4 Less • 216
Memory Man • 237
NEC Computer Systems • 237
Sharp Electronics Corp • 237
Texas Instruments (Acer) • 222
Toshiba America • 222, 237

Power Strips/ Surge Suppressors
Computer Gate Int'l • 172

Switch Boxes
Computer Gate Int'l • 172

Uninterruptible Power Supplies
American Power Conversion Corp • 21, 196, 230

• Disk Accessories

Computer Gate Int'l • 127, 129, 172
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Mega Haus • 196
Stomp • 196, 202, 230
Thortek • 202

• Notebook/ Portable Accessories

Carrying Cases
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Thortek • 202

Notebook/ Laptop Hard Drives
AST Research • 222
Compaq Computer Corp • 222
Dell Computer Corp • 222
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Gateway 2000 • 222
Hitachi • 196, 230
IBM Corporation • 176, 196, 202, 222, 230, 244
Kahlon • 222
Marine Park Computers • 168
Memory 4 Less • 216
NEC Technologies • 222
Simple Technology • 21
Texas Instruments (Acer) • 222
Thortek • 202
Toshiba America • 176, 196, 202, 222, 230, 244

Portable CD-ROM Drives
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Kahlon • 222
MicroSolutions • 168
Sony Corp of America • 73

Portable CD-Recordable Drives
Archos • 168
Hewlett-Packard • 168
Iomega Corp • 168
Sony Corp of America • 168

Portable DVD-ROM Drives
Addonics (Fora) • 168, 202
Amacom Technologies • 202

Portable MP3 Music Players
Sony Corp of America • 73

Misc. Notebook/ Portable Accessories
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Marine Park Computers • 168
Mega Haus • 196
Thortek • 202

• Printer Supplies

Printer Expansion Memory
Hewlett-Packard • 217, 222
IBM Corporation • 222
Kahlon • 222
Lexmark International • 222
Memory 4 Less • 216

Toner/Inkjet Cartridges
Canon Computer Systems • 217
Epson • 217
Hewlett-Packard • 217
Okidata Corp • 217

Misc. Printer Supplies
Nurol Corp • 190

• Storage Media

CD-R (Recordable) Discs
Computer Gate Int'l • 127, 129
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230, 236
Mega Haus • 196
Thortek • 202

Data Cartridges/ Cassettes
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230, 236
Exabyte Corp • 196, 230
Hewlett-Packard • 196, 230
Mega Haus • 196
Quantum Corp • 196, 230
Seagate Technology • 213, 230
Sony Corp of America • 230

DVD-R (Recordable) Discs
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230

Optical Disks
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Maxoptix Corp • 230
Mega Haus • 196
Sony Corp of America • 196, 230

Zip Disks
Iomega Corp • 127, 129, 196, 202, 213, 230
Thortek • 202

• Misc. Accessories

ADS Technologies • 96
Case Depot • 178
Computer Gate Int'l • 172
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Ever Han Corp • 206
Jinco.com • 206
Mega Haus • 196
Team Force • 178
Thortek • 202

NETWORKING/ COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

3Com Corp/US Robotics • 34, 127, 129, 168, 196, 207, 213, 244
Allion • 230
Asante Technologies • 34
Axis Communications • 21, 230
Belkin Components • 21
Cisco Systems • 34
Computer Gate Int'l • 127, 129, 172
D-Link Systems • 127, 129, 213
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Edimax Technology Co • 244
Intel Corp • 34, 127, 129, 207, 213
Marine Park Computers • 168
Mega Haus • 196
Micro Pro • 213
Phoebe • 213
Quantum Corp • 230
Seagate Technology • 196, 230
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 207
Xircom • 168

SOFTWARE & CONTENT

• Applications Software

Accounting/Finance/ Tax/Investment
Cougar Mountain Software • 3
Crichlow Data Sciences • 190
Intuit • 34
Nurol Corp • 190
P.O.S. International • 189

Communications
Symantec Corp • 38, 189
Symantec Corp (Delrina Group) • 38, 189

Desktop Publishing
Adobe Systems • 38, 189

Education/Training
SmartCertify Direct • 125

Fonts
Nurol Corp • 190

Graphics
Adobe Systems • 34, 38, 189
Corel Corp • 34, 189
Macromedia • 189

Integrated
Corel Corp • 38, 189
Lotus Development Corp • 189
Microsoft Corp • 38, 189

Internet
Adobe Systems • 38

Languages/Tools
Inprise Corp (Borland) • 38
Microsoft Corp • 38, 189

Multimedia
AIST • 145

Networking
Microsoft Corp • 38, 189
NovaStor Corp • 196, 230
Seagate Software • 196

PIMs
Symantec Corp • 38, 189

Point-of-Sale
American Microsystems • 191
Cougar Mountain Software • 3
Crichlow Data Sciences • 190
DCRS Solutions • 190
IBM Corporation • 190
ICV Corp • 190
Merchant Software Corp • 190
Northwest Network Solutions • 190
Nurol Corp • 190
P.O.S. International • 189
PC America • 107
Point of Sale Solutions • 190
Remsoft Technologies • 190
Sales Management Systems • 190
StrandWare • 190

Project Management
Microsoft Corp • 38, 189

Security
NovaStor Corp • 196, 230

Utilities
Adaptec • 48, 196, 230
Creative Digital Research • 196, 230
Dirt Cheap Drives • 230
Elektroson USA • 230
Mega Haus • 196
NovaStor Corp • 196, 230
Prassi Software USA • 230
Seagate Software • 196, 230
SmartCertify Direct • 125
Stomp • 230
Symantec Corp • 34, 38, 189

• Operating Systems/GUIs

Microsoft Corp • 34, 38, 189

• Books/Catalogs/ Videos

PC Mall • 34

SERVICES

• Data Conversion/ Disk Duplication

Logicube • 192

• Online Auctions

CitiTronics.com • 190
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 228

• Training/Business

Crichlow Data Sciences • 190
Harcourt Learning Direct 93, 95
P.O.S. International • 189
PC America • 107
SmartCertify Direct 125

• Misc. Services

CDW Computer Centers • 152
P.O.S. International • 189
Safeware • 6
Thompson Computer Warehouse • 228

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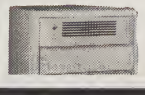
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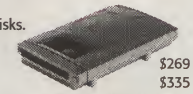
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100MB disks (ZIP100C) Qty 2-9/Qty 10+	$12/$10

250MB ZIP



External USB for PC or Mac (ZIP250USB)	$165
External SCSI for PC or Mac (ZIP250)	$149
Internal IDE (ZIP250A)	$145
External for PC parallel port (PPZIP250)	$149
250MB disks (ZIP250C) QTY 2-9/QTY 10+	$17/$15

2 GIG JAZ



- Backwards compatible w/Jaz 1 Gig disks.

10ms read, 12ms write, 5394rpm

Internal SCSI (JAZ2I)	$269
External SCSI (JAZ2X)	$335
1GB Disks (JAZC1GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+	$80/$77/$75
2GB Disks (JAZC2GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+	$85/$80/$77
JAZ ACCESSORIES	
ISA Controller (JAZJETISA)/PCI Controller (JAZJETPCI)	$79/$89
PCMCIA Type II Adapter (JAZPCMCIA)	$105
Parallel Adapter Jaz Traveller (JAZPARALLEL)	$39

Sales lines open: Mon - Fri 7-8, Sat 9-3 CST

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Seagate's new 3D Defense system: Drive Defense, Data Defense & Diagnostic Defense...Ensures ironclad protection — the industry's most complete protection solution for data.

U5 ULTRA ATA-100, 512K, 5400rpm

10.2GB	ST310211A	$95
20.4GB	ST320413A	$116
30.0GB	ST330621A	$129
40.8GB	ST340823A	$149

ULTRA 160 SCSI, 4MB, 10,000rpm

9.2GB	ST39204LW	$229
18.2GB	ST318404LW	$349
36.7GB	ST336704LW	$579
73.4GB	ST173404LW	$1055

Call about our 16MB and 15000rpm deals.



Quantum

Leading The Way In Performance And Reliability

4500rpm/128k Fireball LCT20, Ultra ATA-100

10GB	QML10000LD	$99
20GB	QML20000LD	$113
30GB	QML30000LD	$119
40GB	QML40000LD	$143

7200rpm/2MB Fireball Plus AS, Ultra ATA-100

10GB	QMP10200AS	$109
20GB	QMP20500AS	$124
30GB	QMP30000AS	$143
40GB	QMP40000AS	$184
60GB	QMP60000AS	$254

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TAPE BACKUP

SONY

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Sony DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 90MB/min, SDT7000AI	$429 $10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 144MB/min, SDT9000AI	$565 $20 (DAT125M)
20-40Gig	DDS-4 DAT, 288MB/min, SDT11000AI	$835 $33 (DAT150M)
160-320Gig	DDS-4 DATloader, 840MB/min, TSL-S11000	$2745 $33 (DAT150M)

SONY AIT Tape Drives

25-50GB	AIT Internal	(SDX-300CI)	**$1189**
25-50GB	AIT External	(SDX-S300C)	**$1345**
50-100GB	AIT-2 Internal	(SDX-500CI)	**$2999**
50-100GB	AIT-2 External	(SDX-S500C)	**$2965**
35GB AIT Media	(SDX135C) 1-4/5/9/10-49/50+		**$85/$83/$81/$79**
50GB AIT Media	(SDX250C) 1-4/5/9/10-49/50+		**$110/$106/$102/$98**

Quantum.

Get a DLT4 tape for only $65 when purchased with drive.

20-40Gig	DLT,180MB/min, DLT4000	$1095 $65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT4000X	$1195 $65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT4000QX	$1529 $65 (DLT4)
40-80Gig	DLT, 600MB/min,DLT8000	$3099 $65 (DLT4)
	External, our case, DLT8000X	$3269 $65 (DLT4)
	External, Quantum case, DLT8000QX	**$3369** $65 (DLT4)

DLT MEDIA SALE	**1-4**	**5-9**	**10-49**	**50+**
DLTIII 10-20GB (DLT3)	$34	$33	$32	$31
DLTIII XT 15-30GB (DLT3XT)	$37	$36	$35	$34
DLTIV 20-40GB (DLT4)	$73	$70	$67	$65
DLT Cleaning tape (DLTCLEAN)	$39	$37	$35	$33

Seagate

- Includes 1 FREE tape, cable, manual & Win/NTWS backup software

Minicartridge

ATAPI (IDE)	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000A)	**$195**	**$315**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20gig (STT220000A)	**$259**	**$369**	**$40**(TR5)
SCSI	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000N)	**$219**	**$279**	**$25**(TR4)
SCSI RCVT Includes NT & Netware server software only. Features hardware data compression.			
TR4 4-8gig (STT28000NC)	**$369**	**$429**	**$25**(TR4)
TR5 10-20gig (STT220000N)	**$469**	**$529**	**$40**(TR5)

HEWLETT® PACKARD



Minicartridge

Includes 1 FREE tape, manual, , DOS/Win backup software

SCSI	*Int.*	*Ext.*	*Extra Tapes*
TR5 10-20gig (C4394A)	**$369**	**$429**	**$40**(TR5)

Exabyte



7-14Gig	8mm,120MB/min, ELIANT820	$1179 $10 (DAT160M8MM)
20-40Gig	8mm,360MB/min, EXB8900	$1949 $69 (AME170)
140-280Gig	8mm, 180MB/min, EZ17SWK	$4479 $10 (DAT160M8MM)

HEWLETT® PACKARD

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with HP DAT!

4-8Gig	DDS-2, 60MB/min, C1599AI	$519 $10 (DAT120M)
12-24Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C1554AI	$695 $20 (DAT125M)
72-144Gig	DDS-3, 120MB/min, C5648A	$1649 $20 (DAT125M)

Seagate

We include 5.25" mounting hardware with Seagate DAT!

2-4Gig	DAT-DC,66MB/min,STD24000N	$415 $6 (DAT90M)
4Gig	Mini, 30MB/min,STT28000N	$219 $25 (TR4)
4-8Gig	Mini, 60MB/min,STT28000NC	$365 $25 (TR4)
4-8Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STD28000N	$519 $10 (DAT120M)
10-20Gig	Mini, 100MB/min,STT2200BARE	$275 $40 (TR5)
12-24Gig	DDS-3 DAT, 132MB/min, STD224000N	$689 $10 (DAT120M)
35-70Gig	AIT,360MB/min, STA2701W	$1789 $105 (STAE70)
48-96Gig	DDS-2 DAT, 66MB/min, STL496000N	$1619 $10 (DAT125M)

We have a variety of power backup solutions. Our customer service reps are glad to assist you. Call or visit our website under the "Power Backups" listing.

DRIVE CASES

DRIVE CASE:	**SCSI TYPE: Ultra**	**UltraWide**	**Ultra 160**
3.5" w/ closed, 1", & 1.6" open face plates	**$49** (3.5CASEC)	**$59** (3.5CASECW)	**$69*** (3.5CASE160)
5.25" w/ closed, 1", 1.6", & CD face plates	**$49** (HHCASET)	**$59** (HHCASETW)	**$75*** (HHCASET160)
Holds 2 half height or 1 full height drive.	**$69** (FHCASE)	**$95** (FHCASEW)	**$109*** (FHCASE160)
Dual 3.5" drive model Takes two 3.5" drives	**$69** (DUAL3.5CASE)	**$89** (DUAL3.5CW)	**$99*** (DUAL3.5C160)
Holds 4 half height or 2 full height drives.	**$99** (DUALCASET)	**$129** (DUALCASETW)	**$139*** (DUALCASE160)
Holds 8 half height or 4 full height drives.	**$175** (TOWERCASET)	**$219** (TOWERCASETW)	**$239*** (TOWERCSE160)
Holds 14 half height or 6 full height drives.	**$385** (14BAYCASE)	**$479** (14BAYCASEFW)	**$495*** (14BAYCSE160)
Holds 18 half height or 8 full height drives.	**$585** (18BAYCASE)	**$689** (18BAYCASEFW)	**$699*** (18BAYCSE160)
Holds 20 half height or 10 full height drives.	**$619** (20BAYCASE)	**$739** (20BAYCASEFW)	**$755*** (20BAYCSE160)

** Also compatible with Ultra-2 SCSI*

Parallel cases, PCMCIA IDE cases and redundant hot swappable power supplies are also available. Call us or shop our webstore for complete listings at:

www.dirtcheapdrives.com/cases



Hot Port External IDE Case

The perfect way to turn any IDE drive into an external. Great for Hard drives, CD ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, tape, optical, DVD, or any other IDE drive. Includes IDE controller card, cable, and case. Power goes through the data cable so no awkward power cables. Perfect for sharing drives among multiple computers. TWICE as fast as an external parallel port case and cheaper than SCSI. (HOTPORT) $119

Extra HotPort controller (HOTCT) $59

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BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate (formerly Veritas) (formerly Seagate) Backup Exec

Windows 95, 98 & NT workstation — *Now supports NT Workstation* (SBEWDWD)	$65
Windows NT multi server (SBENTME)	$859
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	$439
Netware single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	$329

NovaStor

NovaWorks CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1, Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2. Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	$49
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000Server (29801)	$125
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	$295
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	$395
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	$659
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	$285
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	$315
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	$395
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	$555

Go Back

Better than just backup - it's disaster recovery	$55

We now carry a large variety of software including: gaming software, multimedia software, business software & more! For the hottest deals, call us or shop our webstore at www.dirtcheapdrives.com.

WE KNOW RAID

Dirt Cheap Drives can custom configure a RAID tower to meet your needs. Here are a few popular components. We stock many other RAID components. Check us out on the web or give us a call.

IDE RAID CASES



Tower Model

Incredible quality. Extremely well built. Just add up to 6 IDE drives of any capacity, and an Ultra Wide SCSI controller to your computer and you are ready for high performance, fault tolerant RAID. Features hot swap drive shuttles, 4 cooling fans, and redundant hot swap power supplies. Run as RAID 0 or 5. Supports all major operating systems.

Tower Model Entry level IDE RAID Array (IDERAIDCASE) $1829

Rack Mount Model Entry level IDE RAID Array (IDERAIDRACK) $1989

Ask about our High End IDE RAID Arrays

RAID SUITABLE ENCLOSURES

These hard drive enclosures are perfect for RAID or multiple drive applications. They feature hot swapable drive shuttles, and large cooling fans. These cases use a special backplane technology that allows you to use Wide SCSI, Ultra Wide SCSI, or Ultra-2 LVD hard drives without the normal cable length problems. Add drives and an Adaptec RAID controller for your complete high end RAID solution.

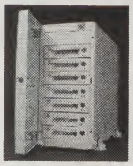




Also available in SCA models
2- $579
4- $729

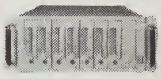
2 Drive Desktop Model (FHCASEUSW) $539

4 Drive Desktop Model (DUALCASEUSW) $679



7 Drive Desktop Model			PLASTIC
(QUADCASEUSW)	U,UW, W		$1089
(QUADCASEU7)	SCA		$1259
8 Drive Desktop Model			
(QUADCASE8U2)	U,UW, W		$1179
(QUADCASEU2)	SCA		$1369

Available in black...just add $20



7 Drive Desktop Model			PLASTIC
(RACKCASEUSW)	U,UW, W		$1129
(RACKCASEU7)	SCA		$1269
8 Drive Desktop Model			
(RACKCASE8U2)	U,UW, W		$1239
(RACKCASEU2)	SCA		$1369

Available in black...just add $20

IDE RAID 1

IDE RAID has never been this easy. Simply install the bay mount RAID controller unit in a 3.5" drive bay, connect two same size IDE hard drives and bootup. The unit does the rest for you. Provides RAID 1 mirroring and features an audible alarm to alert you of drive failure. This is a great product. (ARDUPRAID) $199

Same unit in 5.25" bay ready mount (ARDUP5.25) $209

Axis Storpoint CD/DVD E100 | *SUPPORTS MACINTOSH!*

E100 features the fastest way to share CDs or DVDs across a network. Works with most operating systems, including Netware, Windows 95, 98, NT, Macintosh, Unix or Os2. Hard Disk caching provides blistering fast access to stacks of CDs or DVDs. (AXISCD/DVD) $769



Hot swappable drive setup for SCA drives

- Quality metal construction & front cooling fan!
- Mount three 1" high SCA drives in a single 5 1/4" full height drive bay. (SCA3DR-LVD) $179 or $299 for Ext.

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Have you been wondering if your data is secure while you're away from your desk or surfing the web? The solution is simple. Take your hard drive with you when you go. No more security worries. No more files left behind. Just put your drive in a padded carrying case whenever you're away from your PC. Great for security, transportability, data interchange, RAID configurations, etc. With DataPort™ you *can* take it with you when you go.

Keep your data secure by turning any 3½" drive into a removable.

DATAPORT™ SYSTEM INCLUDES:

1. Frame – Installs into your 3½" drive bay **&**
2. Cartridge – Holds your internal drive allowing it to slip in and out of the bay on the installed frame.

***Note:** Each family of modules are not compatible with other families.*

These Dataport™ systems are the best we have ever seen. We HIGHLY recommend using DataPorts™ to keep your data secure.

DATAPORT IV

SCSI ID switch, and gold plated connectors. Plastic construction with metal top and bottom covers on cartridge.

IDE SYSTEM – 1 frame, and 1 cartridge (TRANSIDE)	$45
Extra IDE Frame (TRANSIDEFR)	$27
Extra IDE Cartridge (TRANSIDECA)	$21
SCSI SYSTEM – 1 frame, and 1 cartridge (TRANSSCSI)	$51
Extra SCSI Frame (TRANSSCSIFR)	$29
Extra SCSI Cartridge (TRANSSCSICA)	$26

DATAPORT V

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 w/plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	$79	N/A
IDE 66 w/ metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	$87	$96
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UW)	$105	$114
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	$42	N/A
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	$50	$60
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCART)	$61	$71
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	$44	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAME)	$51	

DATAPORT™ PADDED CARRYING CASE

Fits all removable cartridges. Great for safe transportation and storage once the cartridge is removed.
Professional Aluminum Case (DPCASEM) **$49**

DATAPORT VI

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm, SCSI ID switch. 7 segment ID display on front. Metal frame and metal cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	$108	$117
Ultra Wide SCSI (DP2200UWM)	$128	$137
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	$139	$149
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSCARTM)	$61	$71
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	$75	$85
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART)	$88	$98
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAMEL)	$54	
Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAMEA)	$61	
SCA (DPSCAFRAME)	$63	
ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI		
Cover plate to cover opening when cartridge is removed (DPFPLATE)	$8	$10

DATAPORT VII – CALL

High quality DataPort series made for 10,000rpm drives with dual cooling fans.

DATAPORT VIII – CALL

High quality DataPort series made for 10,000rpm drives with dual cooling fans (one front, one rear). Gold plated connections. SCSI ID switch. LCD display shows time, drive temp, SCSI ID and voltage.

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CONTROLLERS

adaptec

		BARE	/KIT
A1505CDKIT	ISA 16 Bit SCSI (no hard drive support)		$49
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)		$55
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter		$69
T1460D2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI		$119
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI		$169
AAA131U2	PCI RAID controller for Ultra-2		$429
AAA133U2	PCI Ultra-2 RAID 3 channel		$695
ARO1130U2	RAIDPORT II Ultra-2 RAID		$269
A19160	Ultra 160 SCSI	$149	$219
A29160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit	$209	$249
A39160	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit PCI, 2 channel		$345
A29160N	Ultra 160 SCSI 32 bit PCI		$279
A29160LP	Ultra 160 SCSI 64 bit MD2 low profile	$219	$299
APD29160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh		$279
APD39160MAC	Ultra 160 SCSI controller for Macintosh	FAST!	$399
AAAUDMAKIT	PCI 4 channel UDMA/66 RAID		$379
The Adaptec RAID Lineup			
RAID2100S	Ultra 160 SCSI RAID w/32MB SDRAM		$429
RAID3200S	As 2100S with 2 channels, 64 bit		$729
RAID3400S	As 2100S with 4 channels, 64 bit		$979
ABM100KIT	Battery backed module for 3000S series RAID controllers		$229
AMM232KIT	32MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers		$165
AMM264KIT	64MB ECC SO-DIMM for 3000S series RAID controllers		$279

ARCO COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC.

- Hardware RAID 1 (mirroring) works with most operating systems.
- Jumperless design, 100% data redundancy, 4 drive support
- Works off of existing IDE controller

ISA (ARDUPLIDISK) $175 PCI (ARDUPLIPCI) $179

Tekram

We are really impressed with these controllers. High quality at a very hot price. check them out!

DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	$25
DC395U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	$49
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	$75
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	$129
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	$139
DC390U3W	1 Ultra 160 Channel & 1 Ultra Wide channel kit	$189

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	$23
ULTRA100	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-100 drives	$37
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	$63
FASTTRAK100	PCI, SUPPORTS ULTRA ATA-100 RAID 0+1	$89

USB STUFF

4x4x6 CD-RW – PC or Mac (CRX100E/X2) **$299**
Master CD with this complete kit. Includes mastering software & drive in high quality external USB case.

100MB Zip Drive (ZIP100USB) **$89**
Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

250MB Zip (ZIP250USB) **$165**
Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software.

2.2GB Orb (ORBUSB) **$185**
Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge.

USB to SCSI (or SCSI-2) Adapter (USBSCSI) **$59**
Adapter allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port.

SuperDisk Drive 120MB/Floppy (USBLS120) **$149**
Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks.

1394 USB/PCI Board (70HTL00060) **$125**
2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

Floppy Drive (USBFLOPPY) **$85**
USB for iMac. Read/write Mac & PC formats. iMac blue case.

10GB, 15GB, 20GB, 30GB Hard Drive
(USB10GB/15GB/20GB/30GB) **$179/$189/$195/$209**
10GB USB external hard drive with built-in fan and USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

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Socket 370 & Slot 1 Available. Talk to our customer service reps today about these configurations.

PENTIUM III PROCESSORS

800MHz, 256KB, 100FSB FC-PGA	526F800256E	$299
800MHz, 256KB, 100FSB S.E.C.C.2	526H800256E	$249
800MHz, 256KB, 133FSB FC-PGA	526C800256E	$249
933MHz, 256KB, 133FSB-PGA	526C933256E	$595
933MHz, 256KB, 133FSB S.E.C.C.2	526U933256E	$419

Need a processor not listed? Call, we are determined to be #1, so give us a try.
PRICES ARE ALWAYS CHANGING - SO CALL US!

POWER BACKUP

We've got 'em! Call for our latest pricing.

Back-UPS
Back-UPS Office85
Back-UPS Pro 120V
Back-UPS Pro 230V
Back-UPS Pro USB
Symmetra RM 208V
Smart-UPS 120V
Smart-UPS 208V
Smart-UPS RM 120V
Smart-UPS RM 208V
Smart-UPS RM 120, 208V
Symmetra RM 120, 208V
Symmetra Power Array 120, 208, 240V
We do custom configurations. CALL!

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Computer Shopper shoppers' choice awards 2000

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DVD Drives and Complete Kits

PIONEER



- 16X DVD reader, 95ms
- 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- Bare IDE Drive tray load *(Also avail as slot load)* (DVD115) $103
- 16X DVD reader, 95ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
  Bare IDE Drive slot load (DVD105) $101
- 10X DVD reader, 120ms • 40X CD ROM, 90ms
  Bare SCSI Drive slot load (DVD304) $139
- DVD Recorder, DVD-R write 1x, DVD-R read 2x, 4MB buffer, Inc. write, DVD software + 3 DVD disks (DVRS201) **$3989**

Dirt Cheap Drive Kit SALE!

- 16X kit complete with MPEG-2 decoder
- 16X DVD reader, 95ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
- IDE interface • Supports CDR and CD-RW media

Complete Kit (DVD16KIT) $175

Creative DVD Kit



- Encore DVD 12X kit includes: 130ms 12X DVD drive
- Reads CDs at 40X, 110ms
- MPEG-2 decoder
- DVD Titles (CLDVD12KIT) $145

TOSHIBA



- 16X DVD reader, 90ms • 48X CD ROM, 80ms
  Bare IDE Drive (SDM1502) $97
- 10X DVD reader, 105ms • 40X CD ROM, 85ms
  Bare SCSI Drive (SDM1401) $149

ACER

- 16X DVD reader, 90ms • 40X CD ROM, 80ms
  Complete Kit (DVP1640A) $109

IDE CDR & DVD-ROM in ONE!

Toshiba

- 4X, 4X Rewrite CD-RW, 4X DVD Read, 24X CD Read Complete Drive Kit (SDR1002) **$205**

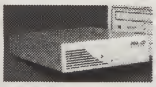
Ricoh

- 12X, 10X Rewrite CD-RW, 8X DVD Read, 32X CD Read Complete Drive Kit (MP9120A) **$295**

Cendyne

- 12X, 10X Rewrite CD-RW, 8X DVD Read, 32X CD Read Complete Drive Kit (CD1CD0059) **$295**

FISC-CD (Ethernet IDE CD Controller)



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Bare SCSI drive (SDW1111) $365

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- CD-ROM 24x, 140ms • 2MB buffer
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IDE bare drive (GF2000) $489

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NEC 40X	$1109 #NEC3010X7N	$1349 #NEC3010X7NT	$1799 NEC3010X13T	$2119 #NEC3010X13E
Kenwood 52X	$1599 #KEN415X7N	$1849 #KEN415X7NT	$2739 #KEN415X13T	$2949 #KEN415X13E

Axis StorePoint CD *Ethernet SCSI CD Controller*

Connect your SCSI CD ROM drives directly to your Ethernet or Token Ring network without a computer. Stand alone has its own external enclosure. Tower module mounts in a tower case & occupies 15.25" HH drive bay.

Enclosure	Network	Max # Drives	Item #	Price
Stand-alone	Ethernet	7	AXISCD-E	$535
Stand-alone	TokenRing	7	AXISCD-TR	$559
Tower Module	Token Ring	7	AXISCD/T-TR	$639
Tower Module	Ethernet	7	AXISCDE100	$519
Tower Module	Ethernet	14	AXISCDE100D	$649
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	7	AXISCD/DVD	$769
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	14	AXISCD/DVDD	$949

SCSI CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Int	Ext
32X	TEAC	CD532S	85	128K	$72	$132
40X	NEC	CDR3010	85	256K	$67	$127
40X	PLEXTOR	PX40TS (TRAY)	85	512K	$87	**$147**
52X	KENWOOD	UCR415	90	2MB	***$139***	***$199***
WIDE SCSI CD ROM						
40X	Plextor	PX40TSUW	85	512K	$99	$189

Pioneer 24x 6 Disk external CD changer (DRM6324X) $395

Let us build a multi-drive tower for you! Call for details.

IDE CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Drive
40X	Teac	CD540E	85	128K	$43
48X	Toshiba	XM6702B	85	256K	$45
48X	Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	65	256K	$39
50X	Acer	CD650P	85	128k	$39
52X	Creative	SBCD52	100	256k	$37
72X	Kenwood	UCR421	100	2MB	$92

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Plextor	40X *Wide SCSI*	85ms	$509 #PLEX40WX4B	$869 #PLEX40WX7B
NEC	40X	85ms	$359 #NEC3010X4B	$619 #NEC3010X7B
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With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk

Creative 12x10X32 IDE (CDRW121032) **$239**
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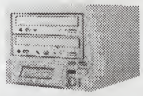
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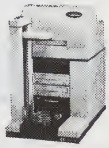
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A Matter of Fax Inc 217
ABS Computer Technologies 7
Acer America 69, 137
Adamant Computers 64, 205
Adtech Systems, Inc 192
Alienware 62
AIST Inc. 145
AMD 58, 59
American Microsystems 191
Atlas Micro 48, 49, 61
AV Marketplace 192
BigClearance.com 38, 189
Caliber Computer Corporation 200, 201
Case Depot 178
CDW Computer Centers, Inc ....21 - 24, 86, 87, 152
CitiTronics.com 190
Comp Direct 174
Compaq Computer Corporation ....COV 2 - COV 4, 1, 18, 19
Compaq Factory Outlet 193
Comp-U-Plus 175
Computer Gate International ..127 - 129, 172, 173
Cougar Mountain Software 3
Crichlow Data Sciences 190
Crucial Technology 4, 5, 224
Cyberpower, Inc 65, 171
dataVis.com (datavision) 151
Dell Computer Corp ....26, 27, 52, 53, 83, 154, 155, 163 - 166, 180 - 182, 246, C5 - C8
Dell Factory Outlet 211
Dirt Cheap Drives ....230 - 236
Etronics.com 73
Ever Han Corp 206
Fujitsu PC Corporation 55
Gateway 2000 ....39 - 41
GenTech Computer 219
Harcourt Learning Direct ....93 - 95
Harmony Computer 96
HP 98, 99, 101, 103, 105
IBM Corporation 8, 10, 11, 75, 76
iBUYPOWER 67, 79
Interpro 204
Jinco.com 206
Kahlon, Inc 222
Kingston Technology 25
Logicube, Inc. 192
Marine Park Computers 168, 169
Megahaus ....196 - 199
Memory 4 Less 216
Memory Man 237
Midwest Micro Peripherals 60
Micro Pro ....68, 213 - 215
Motherboard Express 221
Nurol Corporation 190
Nutrend 63
P.O.S. International 189
Palm, Inc. 2
Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems 135
PC America 107
PC Mall 34, 35
PC Progress 244, 245
posdirect.net 190
Prostar Computer 42, 43, 89
Safeware, The Insurance Agency, Inc 6
Sager ....29 - 33, 46, 47
shoptoshiba.com ....113 - 118
SmartCertify Direct 125
Spartan Tech. 176, 177
The Camera Zone.com 229
Thompson Computer Warehouse ..207, 228
Thortek 202, 203
Tiny Computers 15, 66
Tristate 97
True Data Products 220
United Micro 91
Winbook Computer Corporation 85

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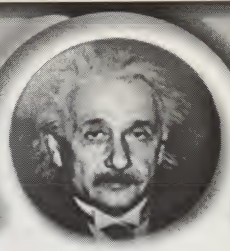
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Index

Hardware

Accessories/Supplies	238, 239
Bar Coding/Point of Sale	239
Boards/Components/Chips	239-241
CD-Recordable Disks	238
Communications/Networking	240
Computer Systems	240
Mass Storage Devices	239, 240
Peripherals	240

Software

Business Applications	243
Education	241
General	241

Services

CD/Disk Duplication	242
Data Conversion/Data Recovery	242
Education	242
Toner Cartridge Remanufacturing	241
Web Hosting/Internet Services	238

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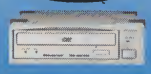
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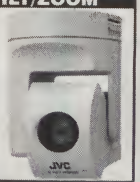


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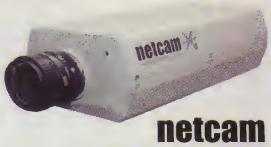
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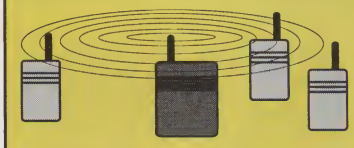


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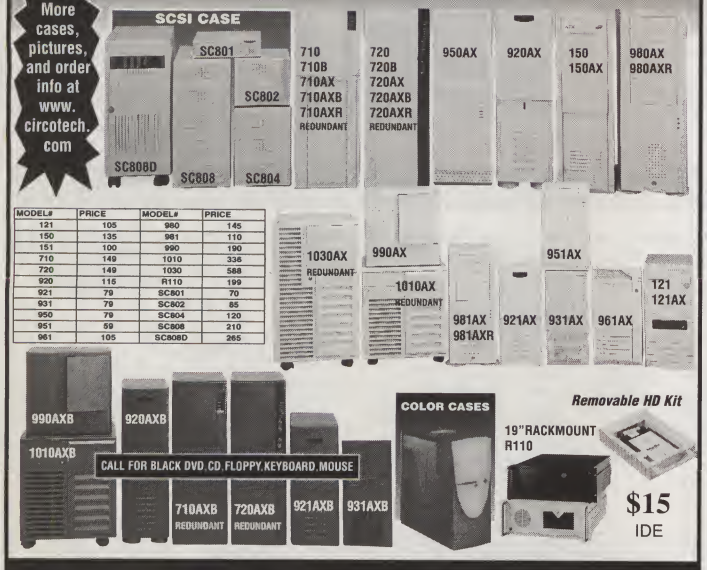
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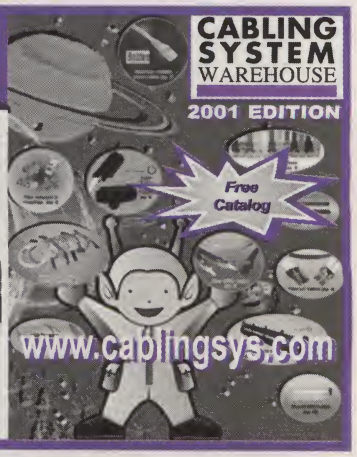
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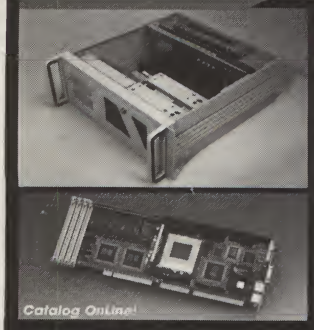
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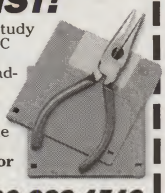
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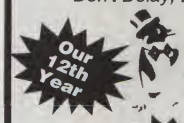
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INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	1000MHZ 256K FCPGA	$489
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ 512K SECC	$152
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	600MHZ 512K SECC	$152
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	650MHZ 256K SECC	$152
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ 256K SECC	$159
INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	700MHZ 256K SECC	$159
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ 256K SECC	$179
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INTEL	PENTIUM III 100MHZ BUS	800MHZ 256K SECC	$199
INTEL	PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	800MHZ 256K SECC	$199
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AMD www.amd.com

AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P450MHZ (100 MHZ)	$40
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P500MHZ (100 MHZ)	$47
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P533MHZ (95 MHZ)	$56
AMD	K6 II W/3D NOW	P550MHZ (100 MHZ)	$66
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AMD	DURON	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	$53
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AMD	DURON	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$70
AMD	DURON	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$81
AMD	DURON	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$119
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$97
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$102
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$132
AMD	K7 ATHLON	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$299
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$87
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$97
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$127
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	$254
AMD	K7 SLOT A TBIRD	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$339
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	$99
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	$102
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	$117
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	$132
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	$147
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P950MHZ (200 MHZ)	$169
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	$189
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P1100MHZ (200 MHZ)	$239
AMD	K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P1200MHZ (200 MHZ)	$274

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32MB	8X36	60NS	$64
64MB	16X36	60NS	$139
128MB	32X36	60NS	$364

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16MB	4X32 EDO	60NS	$30
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64MB	16X32 EDO	60NS	$53
128MB	32X32 EDO	60NS	$226

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64MB	8X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$87
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64MB	8X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$132
128MB	16X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	$167
128MB	16X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$184
128MB	16X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$209
256MB	32X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	$417

168-PIN LONG DIMMS SDRAM WITH EPROM (66MHz)

32MB	4X64	10NS	$20
64MB	8X64	10NS	$38
128MB	16X64	10NS	$72

168-PIN SDRAM WITH EPROM PC100/133

32MB	4X64	8NS	$15
64MB	8X64	8NS	$28
64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$28
64MB	8X72	8NS	$37
128MB	16X64	8NS	$48
128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$50
128MB	16X72	8NS	$64
128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS	$66
256MB	32X64	8NS	$94
256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$94
256MB	32X72	8NS	$119
256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS	$124
512MB	64X72	8NS	$299
512MB PC133	64X72	7.5NS	$449

CORSAIR www.corsairmicro.com

(PC100/133)

CM654S64-BX2	64MB	8X64	8NS	*$47*
CM654S64-133	64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$47
CM734S64-BX2	64MB	8X72	8NS	$58
CM654S128-BX2	128MB	16X64	8NS	$82
CM654S128-133	128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$82
CM654S128-133C2	128MB PC133	16X64 CAS2	7.5NS	$85
CM734S128-BX2	128MB	16X72	8NS	$92
CM734S128-133	128MB PC133	16X72	7.5NS	$92
CM654S256-BX2	256MB	32X64	8NS	$139
CM654S256-133	256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$139
CM654S256-133C2	256MB PC133	32X64 CAS2	7.5NS	$154
CM724S256-BX2	256MB	32X72	8NS	$179
CM724S256-133	256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS	$179
CM744S512-133	512MB PC133	64X72	7.5NS	$504
CM764S512-100	512MB	64X72	8NS	$679
CM744S1024-133	1024MB PC133	128X72	7.5NS	$1519

GX CHIPSETS

CM734S64-GX2	64MB	8X72	8NS	$57
CM734S128-GX2	128MB	16X72	8NS	$94
CM724S256-GX2	256MB	32X72	8NS	$179
CM754S512-GX	512MB	64X72	8NS	$849

RAMBUS

CM618DR128-800	128MB	RDRAM	800MHZ	$259
CM618DR256-800	256MB	RDRAM	800MHZ	$559

VALUE SELECT MEMORY PC100/133

VS64MB100	64MB	8X64	8NS	$37
VS64MB133	64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	$37
VS128MB100	128MB	16X64	8NS	$62
VS128MB133	128MB PC133	16X64	7.5NS	$62
VS256MB100	256MB PC100	32X64	8NS	$119
VS256MB133	256MB PC133	32X64	7.5NS	$119
VS256REG133	256MB PC133	32X72	7.5NS	$187

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TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TO48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	256K	$52
TOSDM1402OEM	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	$90

MITSUMI www.mitsumi.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MIT48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$36
MIT4804OEM	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	$94
MIT4804KIT	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI RETAIL	135MS	2048K	$139

YAMAHA www.yamaha.com

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8824EZKIT	8X/8X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$167
YACRW8824SZOEM	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$207
YACRW8824SZKIT	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$209
YACRW8824SXZ	8X/8X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$269
YACRW2100EZKIT	16X/10X/40X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	$269
YACRW2100SZKIT	16X/10X/40X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	$309

SONY www.sony.com

SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	$40
SYCRX140ECHOEM	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$152
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$162
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$189
SYCRX160E/CH	12X/8X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	$247
SYCRX145S/CH	10X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	$249

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA www.toshiba.com

ALL TOSHIBA IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
T04313MAT	4300	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/8.4MM	$107
T06014MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$116
T01016GAP	10000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$134
T01214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$167
T02016GAP	20000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	$197

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE NOTEBOOK DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 1YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM206000	6000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$119
IBM210000	10000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$137
IBM212000	12000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$167
IBM220000	20000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	$197
IBM230000	30000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	$459

MONITORS

ViewSonic www.viewsonic.com

VIE55	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$152
VIM50	15"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$159
VIG653	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$184
VIGA655	15"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$204
VIE70	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$209
VIE771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$217
VIE773	17"	.25DP	1280 X 1024	$236
VIGS773	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$257
VIG773	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$269
VIPS775	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$309
VIE790	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$329
VIGA771	17"	.27DP	1280 X 1024	$369
VIG90M	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$399
VIPF790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$449
VIPS790	19"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$484
VIG810	21"	.25DP	1600 X 1280	$709
VIP810	21"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$779
VIGS815	21"	.25DP	1920 X 1440	$799
VIP220F	22"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$809
VIP817	21"	.25DP	2048 X 1536	$1439
VIVG151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$959
VIVP150M	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1024 X 768			$1029
VIVP151	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$1399
VIVG181	LCD MONITOR 18.1" VIEWABLE 1280 X 1024			$2549

RELYSIS www.relysis.com

RETE555	15"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$122
RETE770	17"	.28DP	1280 X 1024	$172
RETE786T	17"	.26DP	1280 X 1024	$177
RETE786H	17"	.25DP	1600 X 1200	$199
RETE988	19"	.26DP	1600 X 1200	$269

IDE HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD100AB	10000	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$96
WD100EB	10200	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$99
WD200EB	20000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$104
WD200AB	20500	8.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$104
WD205BA	20500	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$113
WD200BB	20000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$113
WD307AA	30700	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$114
WD300BB	30000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
WD450AA	45000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$142
WD400BB	40000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$157

IBM www.ibm.com

ALL IBM IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM307015	15000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$114
IBM307020	20000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$127
IBM305030	30000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$137
IBM305040	40000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$139
IBM307030	30000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$142
IBM307045	45000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$159
IBM307060	60000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$262
IBM307075	75000	8.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$357

Maxtor www.maxtor.com

ALL MAXTOR IDE DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 3YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX204-5400	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$109
MAX153-7200	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$111
MAX307-5400	30700	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$111
MAX204-7200	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$119
MAX409-5400	40900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
MAX307-7200	30700	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$132
MAX409-7200	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$167
MAX461-7200	46100	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$172
MAX614-5400	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$204
MAX819-5400	81900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$265

CONTROLLERS

PROMISE TECHNOLOGY, INC. www.promisetechnology.com

PRULTRA66	ULTRA ATA66 PCI 4 HARD DRIVE	$24
PRULTRA100	ULTRA ATA100 PCI 4 HARD DRIVE	$49
PRFASTRAK100	ULTRA ATA100 RAID PCI	$82

adaptec www.adaptec.com

AD2940AUOEM	ULTRA SCSI BUS MSTR 20MB/SEC OEM	$151
AD2940UWPROOEM	ULTRA 2 PCI 80MB/SEC OEM	$184
AD29160OEM	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC OEM	$195
AD19160KIT	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC RETAIL	$214
AD2940U2WOEM	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 80MB/SEC OEM	$219
AD29160KIT	ULTRA 2 PCI BUS MSTR 160MB/SEC RETAIL	$283

SCSI HARD DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL www.wdc.com

ALL WESTERN DIGITAL SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$144
WDE9150-0050	9100	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$169
WDE18310-0040	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$232
WDE18310-0050	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$259

Seagate www.seagate.com

ALL SEAGATE SCSI DRIVES LISTED HAVE A 5YR WARRANTY

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$207
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$212
ST39236LWV	9200	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$227
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$299
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$299
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1"H	$299
ST318436LWV	18400	5.8MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1"H	$317
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$339
ST318451LW	18400	5.2MS/15,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$439
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$564
ST336704LWV	36700	5.2MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$589
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/FH	$1049
ST173404LWV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$1069
ST173404LCV	73400	5.6MS/10,000	16000K	3.5"/FH	$1089

VIDEO CARDS

matrox www.matrox.com

MATG45016SDR	G450 16MB, SDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	$79
MATG45016DDR	G450 16MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	$99
MATG45032DDR	G450 32MB, DDR AGP OEM (DUAL)	$134
MATG45032DDRBOX	G450 32MB, DDR AGP RETAIL(DUAL)	$147

ATI www.atitech.com

ATIX988A	EXPERT 98 AGP OEM VER 8MB	$35
ATIX988P	EXPERT 98 PCI OEM VER 8MB	$56
ATIRF16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB	$53
ATIX200032A	EXPERT 2000 AGP OEM VER 32MB	$63
ATIX2KPRO32A	EXPERT 2000PRO AGP OEM VER 32MB	$81
ATIRF32ATV	RAGE FURY AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	$92
ATIRFPR32ATV	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	$103
ATIRFMAX64	RAGE FURY MAX AGP OEM 64MB	$107
ATIAIW12832A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	$149
ATIAIW12832P	ALL-IN-WONDER PCI OEM 32MB W/TV	$167
ATIAIWPRO32A	ALL-IN-WONDER PRO AGP OEM 32MB	$169
ATIRADEON32A	RADEON AGP OEM 32MB DDR	$154
ATIAIWRAD32A	ALL-IN-WOND RADEON AGP OEM 32MB	$239
ATIRADEON64A	RADEON AGP OEM 64MB DDR	$279

STB www.stb.com

STB2000-16A	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB	$81
STB3000-16P	3DFX VOODOO 3 PCI OEM 16MB NOTV	$99
STB4500-32A	3DFX VOODOO 4 AGP OEM 32MB	$129
STB4500-32P	3DFX VOODOO 4 PCI OEM 32MB	$129
STB3500-16ATV	3DFX VOODOO 3 AGP OEM 16MB TV	$159
STB5500-64A	3DFX VOODOO 5 AGP OEM 64MB	$232

ASUS www.asus.com

ASV710016A	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP 16MB	$91
ASV710032A	GEFORCE-2 MX AGP 32MB	$109
ASV710032ATV	GEFORCE-2 MX W/TV AGP 32MB	$119
ASV71002VD	GEFORCE-2 TWINVIEW AGP 32MB	$129
ASV7700P32A	GEFORCE-2 AGP 32MB DDR	$199
ASV7700DEL32A	GEFORCE-2 DEL AGP 32MB DDR	$232
ASV7700P64A	GEFORCE-2 AGP 64MB DDR	$307
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DAYTNT2-16A	RIVA TNT-2 AGP 16 MB	$50
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CREATIVE www.creative.com

CLCT4815	SOUND BLSTR PCI ES4815 OEM	$22
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CLCT4830	SOUND BLSTR LIVE VALUE PCI OEM	$47
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CLSBLMP3+5.1R	SOUND BLSTR LIVE MP3+ RETAIL	$91
CLSBLPLAT5.1R	SOUND BLSTR LIVE PLATINUM RET	$177

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3Com www.3com.com

3C3595	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/WIN	$31
3C3594	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	$34
3C2975	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NO VOICE	$38
3C2974	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	$36
3C2977	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	$57
3C2976	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	$61

CREATIVE www.creative.com

CLDI5655	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 VOICE	$25
CLDI5660	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 NON WIN	$25

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IOMEGA www.iomega.com

IOZIP100IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE 100MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM		$52
IOZIP250IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE 250MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM		$77
IOZIP100USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE 100MB EXT ZIP	USB		$117
IOZIP250USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE 250MB EXT ZIP	USB		$164
IOSCSI2GBINT	REMOVABLE DRIVE 2GB INT JAZ	SCSI		$262
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Dell™ Rated #1 in Desktop Satisfaction, 10th Consecutive Quarter *Technology Business Research Corporate IT Buying Behavior and Customer Satisfaction Study.* – 3rd Quarter 2000, December 14, 2000

Introducing the All-New Dell™ OptiPlex™ GX150 desktop with our new corporate look, minus the corporate price tag. A sleek, 100% tool-less chassis allows for more efficient servicing, minimizing your downtime and making upgrades a breeze. It's also flexible enough to run today's best applications and support emerging E-Business software, so you'll always be ahead of the pack. No matter what the dress code.

DELL™ OPTIPLEX™ GX150

NEW—Latest and Greatest Managed PC

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 933MHz
- 128MB PC133 SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 20GB[5] (7200 RPM) ATA/100 HD (up to 40GB[5])
- 17" (16.0" vis) M781p Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- Integrated AC97 Audio
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- NEW OptiFrame™ Small Desktop Tool-less Chassis in Midnight Gray
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$1299 E-VALUE CODE 05966-390212a

BUSINESS LEASE: $36/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Flat Panel Monitor Sold as an Upgrade

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Dell recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business.

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STRONG AS AN OX. LIGHT AS *A FEATHER.*

[INTRODUCING THE NEW DELL INSPIRON 4000.]

intel inside celeron™ PROCESSOR



Dell™ Rated #1 in Notebook Satisfaction, 10th Consecutive Quarter *Technology Business Research Corporate IT Buying Behavior and Customer Satisfaction Study.* – 3rd Quarter 2000, December 14, 2000

For years, you've been trying to find a workhorse of a notebook that doesn't carry the weight of one. Well, look no further. Introducing the New Inspiron™ 4000, one of Dell's lightest notebooks ever — the ultimate balance of uncompromising performance and mobility. Powered by either an Intel® Celeron™ or Pentium® III processor, you'll be able to bring your work home or to the park, without missing a beat. The New Inspiron 4000 is also fully customizable, all the way to its swappable color palm rests. Tailor your notebook to match your personality. And you won't need the strength of an ox to carry it around.

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

NEW—Style, Freedom, Simplicity Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 14.1" XGA Display
- 64MB SDRAM
- 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 128 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- 53WHr Li-Ion Battery
- MS® Office 2000 Small Business
- MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Mail-in Service with 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$1399 E•VALUE CODE 05967-890213

BUSINESS LEASE: $39/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 128MB Memory, add $99
- Internal TrueMobile™ Wireless NIC[42] Card, add $159
- 3-Yr Mail-in Service with Lifetime Phone Tech Support, add $99

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DELL™ HOME DESKTOPS:

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L Series

Affordable Desktop Solution

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 64MB SDRAM
- 20GB[5] Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- 56K Capable[6] PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$829 E•VALUE CODE 05965-500208

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DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4100 Series

Advanced Performance, Smart Value

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 933MHz
- 128MB SDRAM at 133MHz
- 20GB[5] (7200 RPM) Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 17" (16.0" vis, .26dp) M781s Monitor
- 16MB ATI Rage™ 128 Pro
- 48X Max CD-ROM ■ SB Live! Value Digital
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- U.S. Robotics® 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$1299 E•VALUE CODE 05965-500212

ASK US ABOUT NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.

DELL™ DIMENSION™ 8100 Series

Cutting-Edge Technology

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor at 1.3GHz
- 128MB RDRAM
- 40GB[5] (7200 RPM) Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 19" (18.0" vis) M991 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- 56K Capable[6] PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 Ethernet Controller
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service[4]
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$1699 E•VALUE CODE 05965-500216

ASK US ABOUT NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.

DELL™ HOME NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 3800

Design and Affordability

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 12.1" SVGA TFT Display
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM Drive
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr Mail-in Service
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$1299 E•VALUE CODE 05965-800212

ASK US ABOUT NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

Thin and Light

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 650MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- 14.1" XGA TFT Display
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 128 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr Mail-in Service
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$1799 E•VALUE CODE 05965-800217

ASK US ABOUT NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

Multimedia Mobile Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz
- 15" Super XGA+ TFT Display
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Fixed 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- Modular 8X Max CD-RW
- 32MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M4 3D® Video, 4X AGP
- harman/kardon® Audio
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS® Works Suite 2001 ■ MS® Windows® Me
- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]
- 1 Year of DellNet™ by MSN® Internet Access[10] Included

$2779 E•VALUE CODE 05965-800227

ASK US ABOUT NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.

intel inside pentium® III

Includes Windows Millennium Edition — the home version of the world's favorite software.

Dell recommends Windows 2000 Professional for business.

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DELL™ BUSINESS DESKTOPS:

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L

Affordable Business Desktop

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 700MHz
- 64MB SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 20GB[5] Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- SoundBlaster 64V Integrated Sound
- Integrated Intel® 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® Me & MS® Works Suite 2001 & Norton® AntiVirus™
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$649 E•VALUE CODE 05965-590206

BUSINESS LEASE: $18/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- harman/kardon® Speakers, add $30
- 17" (16.0" vis) E770 Monitor, add $60

DELL™ DIMENSION™ L

Affordable Business Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 64MB SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 20GB[5] Ultra ATA/100 HD
- 17" (16.0" vis) E770 Monitor
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- 3Com® PCI 10/100 NIC
- MS® Windows® Me & MS® Works Suite 2001 & Norton® AntiVirus™
- 1-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$899 E•VALUE CODE 05965-590208

BUSINESS LEASE: $25/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 128MB SDRAM (up to 512MB), add $60

DELL™ OPTIPLEX™ GX150

NEW—Latest and Greatest Managed PC

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 64MB PC133 SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 10GB[5] (7200 RPM) ATA/100 HD (up to 40GB[5])
- 15" (13.8" vis) E551 Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
- Integrated 3Com® 10/100 NIC
- Intel® 3D® AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM ■ Integrated AC97 Audio
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- NEW OptiFrame™ Small Desktop Tool-less Chassis in Midnight Gray
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$999 E•VALUE CODE 05965-390209

BUSINESS LEASE: $28/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

DELL™ BUSINESS NOTEBOOKS:

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 3800

Design and Affordability Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™ 3D® Video, 2X AGP
- Internal 56K Capable[6] Modem
- MS® Works Suite 2001
- 1-Yr Mail-in Service with 1-Yr Phone Tech Support

$1099 E•VALUE CODE 05965-890210

BUSINESS LEASE: $31/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz, add $200
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4] with Lifetime Phone Tech Support, add $218

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 8000

NEW—Performance and Versatility Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 14.1" SXGA+ TFT Display
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 5GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Fixed CD-ROM (Upgrade to CD-RW or DVD)
- Modular Floppy Drive (Upgrade to Optical Drive or Zip)
- 8MB ATI Rage Mobility™-M4 3D® Video, 4X AGP
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery
- MS® Office 2000 Small Business
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$1699 E•VALUE CODE 05965-890216

BUSINESS LEASE: $47/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Factory-installed 8X Max CD-RW, add $299
- Internal TrueMobile™ Wireless NIC[42] Card, add $159
- Upgrade to CompleteCare™ Service[20] from 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4], add $169

DELL™ LATITUDE™ CPt

Network-Optimized Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 600MHz
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 6GB[5] Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- Internal 56K Capable[6] SoftModem
- MS® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Dual Pointing – Touchpad and Pointing Stick
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$1399 E•VALUE CODE 05965-790213

BUSINESS LEASE: $39/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 14.1" Active Matrix Display, add $250
- Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case, add $69

DELL™ SERVERS AND WORKSTATIONS:

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 300

NEW—Basic Box at Our Lowest Price

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz (up to 850MHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
- 64MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 1GB)
- 10GB[5] (7200 RPM) IDE HD (up to 40GB[5])
- Up to 120GB Internal Storage Capacity
- Intel® Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4], Years 2 & 3 Parts & Labor
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

$999 E•VALUE CODE 05965-290209

BUSINESS LEASE: $28/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 2nd 10GB[5] (7200 RPM) IDE HD, add $109
- 2nd Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz, add $499

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 1400

NEW—Small Business Value Solution

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz (up to 1GHz)
- Dual Processor/RAID Capable
- 128MB 133MHz ECC SDRAM (up to 2GB)
- 9GB[5] (7200 RPM) Ultra3 (Ultra 160) SCSI HD (up to 36GB[5] 10K RPM)
- Up to 144GB Internal Storage Capacity
- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers
- 48X Max IDE CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]
- 7x24 Phone Tech Support

$1299 E•VALUE CODE 05965-290212

BUSINESS LEASE: $35/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 2nd 9GB[5] (7200 RPM) Ultra3 SCSI HD, add $219
- Small Business Bundle Upgrade, add $1879

DELL™ PRECISION™ 220

Advanced Performance Workstation

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz (up to 1GHz)
- Desktop Chassis
- Dual Processor/RAID Capable
- 64MB PC600 RDRAM (up to 1GB)
- 10GB[5] (7200 RPM) EIDE HD (up to 73.4GB[5] 10K RPM SCSI)
- NEW NVIDIA TNT2 Pro 16MB 4X AGP
- Integrated NIC & Sound ■ 48X Max CD-ROM
- MS® Windows® 2000 Professional
- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]
- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Phone Tech Support

$1299 E•VALUE CODE 05965-490212

BUSINESS LEASE: $36/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- Monitor Sold as an Upgrade

intel inside
pentium® III



IT'S NOT A GOOD BUY, IT'S THE BEST BUY.



PC World's #1 Best Buy Award
Top 10 Midrange PCs
— February 2001

There are plenty of average "good buys" out there. Only one, however, earned *PC World*'s #1 Best Buy Award in the category of Top 10 Midrange PCs. It's the Dell™ Dimension™ 4100, of course. The reason for all this excitement? It's because of 128MB of SDRAM, an SB Live! Value Digital Sound Card, and a PCI Telephony modem included on a machine that's powered by an Intel® Pentium® III processor at 933MHz. We could go on and on about what makes the Dimension 4100 a best buy, but thanks to *PC World*, we don't have to.

DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4100

Advanced Business Desktop

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 933MHz
- 128MB SDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 20GB[5] (7200 RPM) Ultra ATA/100 HD (up to 80GB[5])
- 17" (16.0" vis) M781 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM
- SB Live!Value Digital Sound Card
- harman/kardon® Speakers
- PCI Telephony Modem for Windows®
- MS® Windows® Me & MS® Office 2000 Small Business & Norton® AntiVirus™
- 3-Yr Ltd Warranty[2] ■ 1-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4]

$1399 E•VALUE CODE 05964-590213a

BUSINESS LEASE: $39/MO., 48 MOS.[11]

- 3-Yr NBD On-Site Service[4] add $99
- Flat Panel Monitor Sold as an Upgrade

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